



New Blueridge Junction section brings largest investment in park history

Mack Rides wows with Copperhead Strike coaster at Carowinds

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On March 23, Carowinds launched the first big new coaster installation of 2019. Twice. Actually, Copperhead Strike is a double-launch coaster from Mack Rides, represented in the U.S. by Leisure Labs, and it packs some signature moves.

"Between the hangtime, airtime and launches, it's hard to say what my favorite moment is; it keeps you guessing," said Lisa Stryker, director of communications, Carowinds. "It's our 14th coaster and may be one of our most unique. It's the only double-launch coaster in North America with five inversions. It's something different from any other coaster we have here in the park."

Comments from riders at



Copperhead Strike, manufactured by Mack Rides, features two launches, five inversions and twisting curves. Signage and theming were provided by The Weber Group. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Copperhead Strike's opening noted how the ride seems to keep going and going, even

with all the low-to-the-ground maneuvers.

Thorsten Koebele, chief officer of marketing, Mack

► See COPPERHEAD, page 6



Jenkinson's Boardwalk adds spinning coaster 5.0, two other new rides

Tidal Wave stands 35 feet over the midway and features more than 1,000 feet of track.
COURTESY JENKINSON'S BOARDWALK



AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. — Jenkinson's Boardwalk may be 91 years old this year, but management there has learned to keep up with the times as well as the trends by trying to add new visitor experiences every year.

This year, visitors to the family-owned and operated park will experience three new rides, a spinning coaster 5.0 called the Tidal Wave by SBF-Visa Group, a new Fun Slide by Frederiksen Industries and a Pirate Jet, another SBF-Visa ride.

The Tidal Wave opened at the end of

April, greeting its first riders during the Easter weekend.

"The Fun Slide has already been operating. The Pirate Jet is still on the water. We are expecting that to arrive in two weeks," said owner Anthony Storino. "The Fun Slide is already operating and the Pirate Jet is still on the water. We are expecting that to arrive the first week of May."

When the Pirate Jet does arrive, it will have to be constructed and then undergo the state of New Jersey's comprehensive inspection and certification process.

► See JENKINSON'S, page 8



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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Continuing influence



Sherborne

In May of 2018, *Amusement Today* ran its first "Women of Influence" profile. Every issue since has featured another profile, and another woman of influence ... and it looks like we will have many more months to go.

It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to write these columns. I want to say thank you to all these amazing ladies. I thank them for giving me their time. I thank them for telling me their stories.

These ladies opened the door to their lives to me and to our readers. They answered personal questions and told stories with candor. They were intelligent, bold, gracious and humble.

Each profile has been unique. Yet, when I look back, the commonalities couldn't be ignored. All of these ladies had mentors in their lives: family members, family friends or the really nice people in maintenance. Quite possibly, these mentors never knew that was what they had become to these young women. They were simply being kind and patient and saw their eagerness to learn.

All these ladies took leaps of faith, jumping confidently out of their comfort zones. They felt they were just having fun, as they told themselves, "I can do that, too."

Most stated they never started out to be where they are today. In fact, I heard more than a few times these exact words: "Never in my wildest dreams..."

Yet, when they look back, they all feel they are exactly where they are supposed to be. Being a woman was not a major issue for them. They weren't defined by their gender. If it ever created a conflict, they handled it and moved on.

Their commitment to give back to this industry astounds me. They feel honored, still wanting to make this great industry greater ... even though they already have.

So, here's to you: Mary Chris Smith, Patty Sullivan, Amanda Thompson, Anna Tyler, Adrienne Dixon Rhodes, Linda Freeman, Franceen Gonzales, Jane Cooper, Linda Hays, Beverly Burbach, Leanna Knoebel Muscato, Patty Beazley, Karen Oertley and Violet Cormier (see page 43).

I cannot wait to see what else you will do, and I cannot wait to tell more stories from this industry's "Women of Influence."

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



GUEST OPINION: Greg Chiecko, president Outdoor Amusement Business Association

Industry denounces inaccuracies in AT&T commercial

Shocked, angered and saddened are the first reactions to a new AT&T advertisement that has been running on broadcast television and on social media. The ad promotes the worst stereotypes of an industry that provides safe family entertainment throughout the United States and around the world, and it clearly conflicts with AT&T's stated claim that its corporate values promote: "Doing the right thing."

The staged scene purports to show a carnival amusement ride, and it suggests that our industry employs careless workers, operates decrepit rides, is unconcerned about ride safety and simply leaves town if someone is injured. Experts who have viewed the ride say it was intentionally doctored by the ad producers to make it appear to be unsafe.

AT&T executives and the advertising agency that created this ad owe an apology to the hard-working men and women who not only make up our industry but also strive to provide safe family entertainment throughout the United States to tens of millions of people each year.



Chiecko

Safety is our industry's highest priority. Amusement rides meet tough international standards and ride safety is heavily regulated. The ride shown in the AT&T ad would never have passed one of the many state inspections our rides receive each year, and it would not have been allowed to operate in the condition shown.

AT&T's corporate values say that "... when we make a mistake, we have the character and courage to make it right and learn from it." Many of Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) members are AT&T customers, and the company owes them an apology and a promise to pull this offensive and inaccurate ad.

OABA represents more than 2,500 members, 200 carnivals, 15 circuses and hundreds of traveling food/game concessionaires in the United States. The vast majority of our members are small, family businesses with many in their second and third generation of ownership. Other organizations associated with our industry have also expressed their concern and dismay at this type of misleading negative advertising.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columnist(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



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Address: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA

Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

Phone: (817) 460-7220

Fax: (817) 265-NEWS (6397)

Websites: www.AmusementToday.com, www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries

Founder & Publisher

Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3
gslade@amusementtoday.com

Accounting & Classified

Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1
spiccola@amusementtoday.com

Assistant Office Manager, Circulation

Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5
sbreen@amusementtoday.com

Advertising

Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432
snichols@amusementtoday.com

Editorial

Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 843-3050
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Production Manager

John Robinson • (513) 256-1441
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Monthly Contributors

David Fake, Bubba Flint, Lottie Minick, Richard Munch, Janice Witherow

Association Memberships

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2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Chris Salerno, Kennywood Park

An experienced leader in the amusement industry, **Chris Salerno** has worked for numerous leisure businesses such as **Six Flags, Inc., Caesars World, Starwood Hotels and Resorts** and **Great Wolf Resorts**. His latest position (since 2014) as director of marketing and sales for **Kennywood Park** in Pennsylvania finds him right at home. Known for his great sense of humor and enjoying mentoring employees and watching them grow, Chris has a fondness for speaking and lecturing about the industry. When he is not working, Chris can be found riding his bike or drinking a good glass of cabernet.

Title: Director of Marketing & Sales.

Number of years in the industry: 42 years

Best thing about the industry: While it may sound cliché — the people. The industry typically attracts passionate, fun-loving, down-to-earth people who have a zest for life.

Favorite amusement ride:

Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean. Great memories when my daughters were younger.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ...

Working in the California wine industry in some marketing or guest relations capacity.

Biggest challenge facing our industry:

Attracting guest-centric seasonal and full-time employees who stay off their cell phones in order to deliver a memorable guest experience.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ...

People watching. The warm weather and outdoor activities serve as the catalyst for people to get out of the house.

Choose one: popcorn or peanuts?

Peanuts (*preferably unsalted cashews*).

The best museum I have ever visited is ...

The Philadelphia Art Museum, the home of Rocky Balboa.

You are lost in the woods. What survival skill helps you the most?

Emotional control (followed by knowledge to make wine out of wild berries).

The most breathtaking scenery I have ever seen would have to be ...

Any view of Lake Tahoe in Tahoe, California.

It is 7 a.m. What are you typically doing?

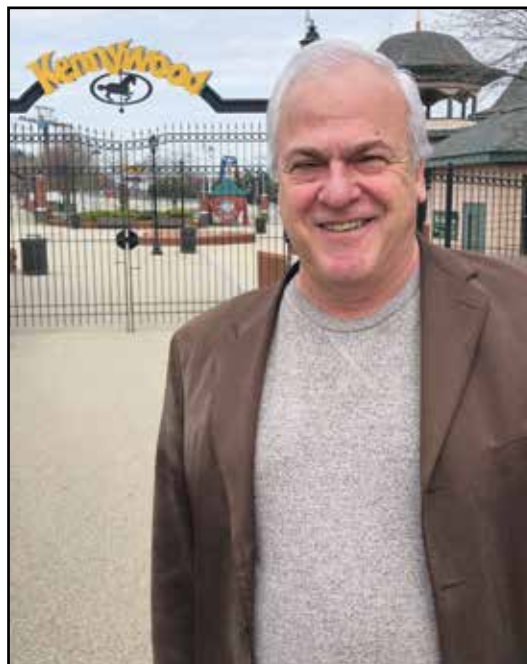
I should be at the gym, but I'm checking email while I sip my first cup of coffee.

My favorite place for lunch is ...

Unfortunately, it turns out to be my office. I try to eat healthy and therefore I bring my lunch to work.

For late-night TV, I tune in to ...

Reruns of "The Office." Michael Scott is hilarious.



Since 2014, Chris Salerno has continued his career in the amusement industry at Kennywood Park.

COURTESY CHRIS SALERNO

When people come to visit Pennsylvania, I always take them to see ...

Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle where Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers converge.

My favorite weekend getaway is ...

New Hope, Pennsylvania. It's a quaint artist community with great boutique shops, dining and "funky" people.

For work purposes, I can't live without ...

Alarms set on my mobile phone to remind me of meeting times throughout the day.

The last gift I bought was ...

A new diamond stone for my wife after her original stone fell out of her engagement ring and got lost.

When I say shopping, you say ...

Pittsburgh's Historic Strip District. Once the home to many mills and factories, the Strip District features specialty shops, ethnic food purveyors, art studios, antique dealers and trendy restaurants.

Favorite breakfast food:

Toasted cinnamon raisin bagel with just a little butter.

For some reason, I seem to know all the words to this song: "Taxi" by Harry Chapin.

People are always surprised to know this about me ...

I was a Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Officer for 4 years after college then segued into the theme park industry.

Household chore I loathe:

Making the bed.

The sports team I root for the most is ...

Philadelphia Eagles. Go Birds!

Favorite summertime activity ...

Biking on several scenic "rails to trails" bike paths in the Pittsburgh region.

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Lining up for kickoff



WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — As the National Football League prepares for its 2019 season, Kennywood Park is preparing to blitz into the 2019 summer season with its new Steelers Country section. The centerpiece of the new section is the first NFL-themed roller coaster, The Steel Curtain. With colors matching the six-time Super Bowl winning Pittsburgh Steelers and football-themed trains, the new coaster from S&S Worldwide — pictured above as it stood under construction in late-March — is rapidly nearing the endzone of greeting its first riders.

COURTESY WEST MIFFLIN BOROUGH UAS PROGRAM

Nominations being accepted NOW

New industry categories for Golden Ticket Awards

As *Amusement Today* works to evolve the Golden Ticket Awards, some categories will be retired and new ones will offer fresh perspectives. Industry professionals will be able to have an impact on some awards this year.

Suppliers and parks can submit nominations in certain categories.

"The Golden Ticket Awards have served us well for more than two decades," said Publisher **Gary Slade**. "We don't intend to lose sight of that. However, we have wanted to give things a refresh for some time. We are going to keep our core categories, retire some that we feel have run their course and introduce some new categories we feel are deserving. This year's awards ceremony should be very exciting."

Innovation of the Year will acknowledge any new product, service or procedure in the industry that shows innovative improvement, safety or an increase in customer service or sales.

Interested parties can make nominations to *Amusement Today* to be evaluated by an industry panel formed by the AT staff. Nominations should be written in 300 words or less and submitted to **Tim Baldwin** at tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

All nominations should be received by June 30. When submitting, please use "GTA Nomination" as the subject line. A confirmation will be sent when received.

Nominees for **Best New Attraction Installation** can be submitted from suppliers. New attractions must be installed and operating when submitted. Consideration will be given to technology, theming, operation and impact.

A modification of a previous category, Best Shows, will now become **Best New Show of 2019**. Any park wishing to nominate a new-for-2019 show may do so by using an electronic transfer method to a video of the show. Nominations should be received by June 30 for a review.

Amusement Today strongly encourages discussion among team members now to put nomination plans in place to meet the deadlines.

Golden Ticket Legends will honor individuals and attractions that have reached legendary status deserving of acknowledgement.

The Golden Ticket Awards were established in 1998 to recognize the Best of the Best and have become some of the most recognized accolades in the world of amusements. This year's ceremony will take place September 6 & 7 in Athol, Idaho, co-hosted by **Silverwood Theme Park** and **Rocky Mountain Construction**.





The 3,255-foot-long Copperhead Strike features several speed hills and dives along with five inversions. AT/TIM BALDWIN

►COPPERHEAD

Continued from page 1

Rides, was also surprised. "It's fantastic. We tried to do some turns very different than what we've done before. What was unexpected to me was that at the end — it seemed to be endless ... on and on and on," he told *Amusement Today*. "You think at the second launch you are almost finished and then there is another turn and another turn. It's very cool."

Track length is 3,255 feet, but with so much of the layout being tangled close to the ground, every inch is packed with thrill. Carowinds already boasts fast giants, including the Golden Ticket winner Fury 325. Copperhead Strike was recognized for its diversity. Two bursts of speed come with the launches, airtime is popular with several speed hills and dives, and the five inversions exhibit variety with a fast corkscrew, hangtime in the loops and the whoa-inducing JoJo roll right out of the station.

The capacity with three trains was designed to accommodate 1,200 riders an hour.

The coaster is an anchor to a new Blueridge Junction section



A 15-foot fireplace, complete with rocking chairs, makes for an inviting place to relax in the area. AT/TIM BALDWIN

of the park. In all, it is the largest investment Carowinds has made since the park opened in 1973.

"I like the total area, and that it is not just the coaster," VP and General Manager **Pat Jones**, told AT. "We have a lot of detail throughout the whole area. If you are a coaster person, we have that for you; if you want something mid-tier, we have the flying experience of Mountain Gliders. It is a fan, fan, FAN favorite."

Mountain Gliders is a 10-vehicle vintage **Bisch-Rocco** Flying Scooters ride that comes with decades of industry his-

tory, dating back to 1935 at Cincinnati's **Coney Island**. Its return to the park across from Copperhead Strike is accompanied with a fresh new southern-stitched look.

Other components to Blue Ridge Junction are a 15-foot-tall fireplace hearth, complete with rocking chairs, and a newly themed restaurant, Blue Ridge Country Kitchen. "We wanted to make sure the menu was a little bit different from everything else we had in the park. We wanted to go a little bit more comfort food, a little bit more southern with a twist," said Jones. Menu offer-



A donation of more than \$10,000 from first-rider auction bids was given to Make-A-Wish Foundation (left). A return of the historic Flying Scooters (right), now called Mountain Gliders, was a popular addition. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Cedar Fair set to acquire California's Great America land

The land beneath California's Great America will soon be owned by Cedar Fair. AT/TIM BALDWIN



SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire the land on which **California's Great America** is located for approximately \$150 million. The park has leased the land from the City of Santa Clara since the origin of the park in 1976.

Cedar Fair President and CEO **Richard A. Zimmerman** said, "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to solidify our control of 112 acres in the heart of Santa Clara. The transaction underscores our long-term commitment to enhancing and expanding California's Great America."

The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2019, subject to terms of a purchase and sale agreement with the successor agency to the former Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Clara, the land's current owner. Cedar Fair intends to finance this transaction through additional long-term borrowings.

ings include rotisserie chicken, roasted tenderloin, collard greens and potatoes and a blueberry crumble. Live entertainment also accents the Blue Ridge Junction area. More shade will arrive by the summer season.

Several visitors remarked how the new section connects two areas making for a completed walkway eliminating previous dead ends. Blue Ridge Junction is completely laid out with pavers and has incorporated more than 2,000 plants and trees in the area.

"We tried to make sure we have things that represent the Blue Ridge region," said Jones. "We have magnolias, we have dogwoods and pine trees. We have it all through the area, not just the queue."

As for Copperhead Strike, Jones says one of the advantages of being GM is being the first one on. She credits herself as a back-seat girl, but said the first two rides out she compared the front seat to the back seat and found them both great.

"There's not a bad seat on the ride," said **Robert Ulrich**, president of **American Coaster Enthusiasts**, who praised the ride as a sensational addition.

"The Weber Group did a great job on the theming," said **Rob Decker**, planning and design, Cedar Fair. "They blew us away."

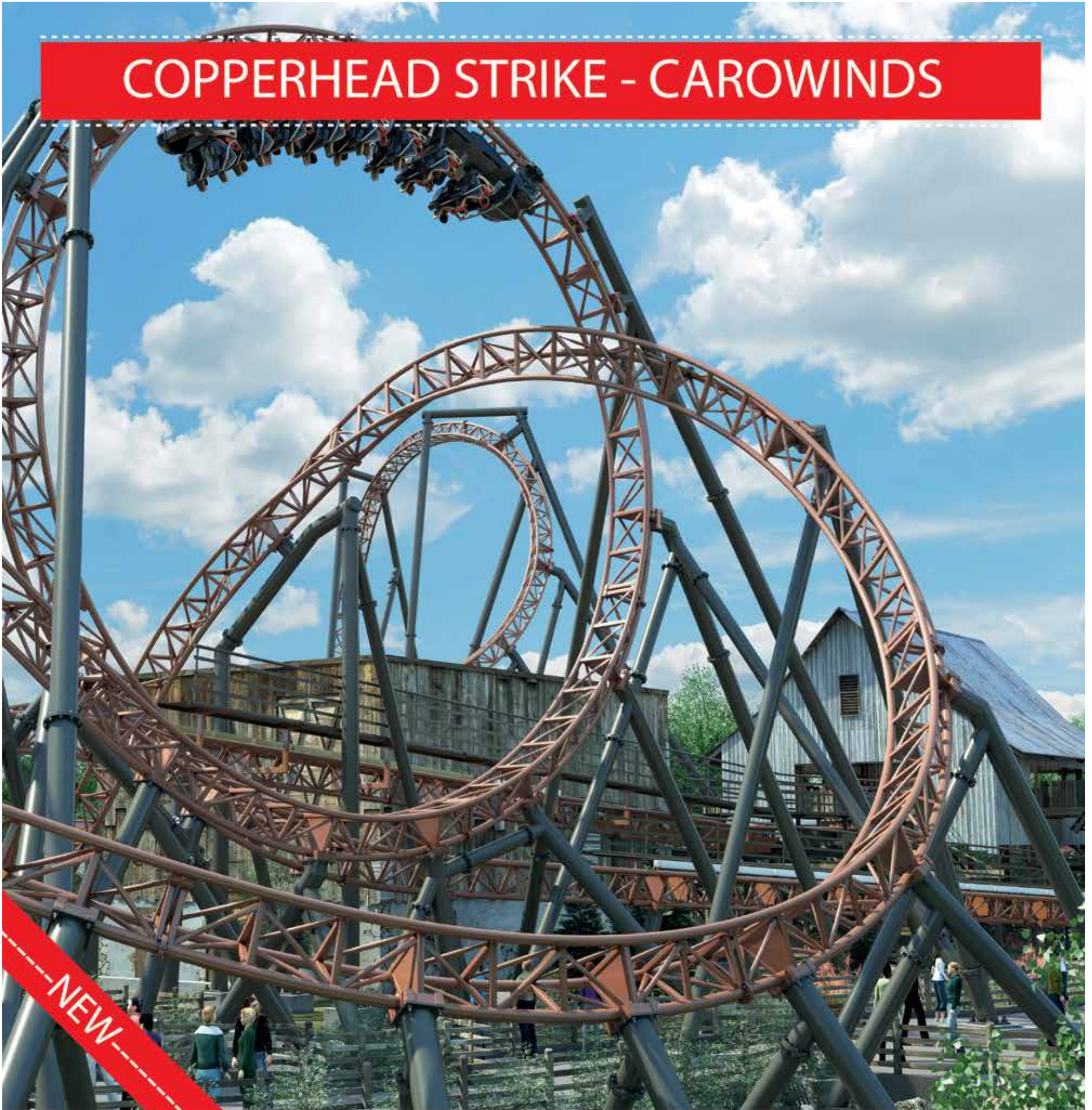
The Weber Group, based out of Indiana, incorporated many storyline elements with the barn-styled station and launch shed, as well as signage and thematic props ranging from tractors and shacks to laundry and an incredibly striking attraction marquee sign. The ride subtly spins a tale of Granny Byrd who doesn't appreciate people trespassing on her farm while she is making moonshine, er, award-winning jam that is. The theming in the launch barn has so much to look at, repeat riders will be finding new things to discover on multiple rides.

"The theming was even a surprise to me on how great it turned out," added Stryker. "Granny's little shack and the outhouses ... all through the queue line ... there are little surprises to keep you entertained while you are awaiting your ride."

An auction for first riders brought in more than \$10,000 for the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**. A check was presented at the media preview.

Two other major additions will open later this summer at the Carowinds destination. A new employee housing dormitory will open on property as will a new 130-room **Springhill Suites by Marriott** resort hotel, which is finishing up construction right at the park entrance.

COPPERHEAD STRIKE - CAROWINDS



MACK
RIDES GmbH & Co KG

Thank you Carowinds for this amazing project - what a thrilling ride with twists and turns and a lot of hangtime moments.

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INTERNATIONAL^{USA}

► JENKINSON'S

Continued from page 1

Len Soled, Rides 4 U, who represents SBF-Visa in the U.S., said the New Jersey process is one of the toughest in the country, but Storino feels the process for the Pirate Jet will most likely be less complicated than it has been for the coaster.

Soled said state engineers "do their due diligence" and then the rides are inspected by state inspectors.

"The spinning coaster 5.0 passed with flying colors," he said.

According to Soled, the coaster purchased by Storino was exhibited at his booth at last November's **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** trade show.

"This was the prototype," Soled said. "Right after the show, it was delivered to the park. It was set up in December. Then, in the last few weeks, we put the cars on the track. SBF-Visa flew someone in from Italy to help with the engineering. Then, we had it inspected."

On April 16, Storino said his crew was doing their own training and testing to get the ride open over Easter weekend when



Tidal Wave, an SBF Visa Group spinning coaster 5.0 (above), was delivered to Jenkinson's Boardwalk in December immediately following the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 and hosted riders for the first time during Easter weekend. The park also added a Frederiksen Industries Fun Slide for families to enjoy (right). COURTESY JENKINSON'S BOARDWALK

Jenkinson's Boardwalk begins full time operations.

"I had seen the SBF-Visa's smaller spinning coaster, but I wanted something a little bigger and with one more car," Storino said.

That is exactly what he got.

"Since space is at a premium here, the ride needed to be set in the same footprint as our Flitzer by Zierer. We traded that one in to Len," he said.

The Zierer ride had been operating in the park for 20 years.

"It took four people to operate it and, with the rising cost of labor, it was just time to change it out," Storino said.

Soled said the spinning

coaster 5.0 is 35 feet tall from the ground to the top of the cars. Jenkinson's ride has five cars which hold four riders each.

"The coaster comes with very ornate LED lighting," Soled said. "There are lights on the tracks and on the cars."

"Another nice thing about this ride is that it is tall enough to be a great family coaster, but not too tall to be intimidating," he said.

Press releases have been released to the Jenkinson's Boardwalk regional marketing area about the park's new rides. Special events tied to the Tidal Wave are in the works.

"We actually are trying to

get some locally-known surfers to come out here for an event sometime in mid-June," Storino said.

Storino said they do have to get creative with space when adding new attractions. They were able to find a little extra space on the park grounds for one of the other new rides. For the third new ride, they did another trade out.

"We have taken our Zamperla Samba balloon ride into maintenance," he said. "We plan to do some refurbishment to that ride and bring it back out in 2020."

Along with Jenkinson's amusement park area, which



now has 28 rides, Jenkinson's Boardwalk offers an array of other attractions and entertainment. Some of those include Jenkinson's Aquarium, Adventure Lookout Ropes Course, several arcade centers, midway-type games, batting cages, a 7D dark ride, a fun house, full service restaurants and concession stands, miniature golf and a beach area.

•jenkinsons.com



COURTESY PINSTACK

Construction underway for Pinstack Austin location

DALLAS — **Entertainment Properties Group, Inc.**, announced **Pinstack's** expansion outside of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. With three existing locations in Plano, Las Colinas/Irving and Allen, the entertainment and dining destination is slated to open its first Austin location in late 2019 at Tech Ridge Center, a **Regency Centers** property.

"We are excited to bring Pinstack to Austin, one of the largest and fastest growing cities in Texas," said **Mark Moore**, CEO of Entertainment Properties Group, Inc.

In addition to state-of-the-art bowling lanes, a 24-foot high rock climbing wall and two-story laser tag arena, Pinstack offers bumper cars and a massive video game arena. There are also virtual reality offerings such as the four-player Halo: Fireteam Raven and Virtual Rabbids as well as arcade classics and the latest pinball machines. Towering over the game room is a 20-foot-high ropes challenge course perfect for team building.

•pinstackbowl.com

iPlay America prepares to open Topgolf Swing Suite in May

FREEHOLD, N.J. — **iPlay America** is celebrating the grand opening of the **Topgolf Swing Suite** in May. Featuring six simulator bays with multiple HDTVs and full food and beverage service, all set within a luxury lounge environment, iPlay America is the first family entertainment center in the country to adopt a Topgolf Swing Suite.

Powered by **Full Swing** simulators, games are designed for both nongolfers and golfers alike. The selection of games, created for up to eight players per bay, includes Topgolf favorites such as TopContender, TopPressure, and TopChallenge, and non-golf immersive games like Carnival Classic, Hockey Shots and Zombie Dodgeball. Guests will also be able to enjoy a drink from the dedicated full bar or order food from an all-new menu at Game Time Bar & Grill.



"We're eagerly counting down the days until we open Topgolf Swing Suite at iPlay America to all of our fans," said **Jessica Schwartz**, iPlay America's vice president of sales and marketing. "We're thrilled to be the first family entertainment center to incorporate this state-of-the-art experience into our attraction offerings."

"Not only does Topgolf Swing Suite expand our selection of activities, but it also meets a demand from our older demographic. Topgolf Swing Suite is the ideal venue for friends to relax, grab a drink, enjoy some delicious food and just have a great time together, anytime of year."

Topgolf Swing Suite complements iPlay America's existing attractions which include: 250+ arcade games, rides and laser tag.

•iplayamerica.com



Full Swing simulators offer multiple games in the Topgolf Swing Suite. COURTESY IPLAY AMERICA

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Hersheypark Carousel celebrates its 100th anniversary — page 20 / FAIRS — page 24

Six Flags Texas locations add Jevo

ARLINGTON, Texas — **Six Flags** properties **Hurricane Harbor** and **Six Flags Over Texas** have added **Jevo** to their beverage programs. Jevo is the world's first fully-automated gelatin shot prep machine and was created by **Food+Beverage Innovations**.

"We're excited about this opportunity to partner with a brand that is on the forefront of innovation and advancing their beverage programs to enhance their customer experience," said Jeff Jetton, Food+Beverage Innovations co-founder and CEO.

Dubbed the "Keurig for Jello shots," Jevo allows venues to prep hundreds of Jevo shots in minutes and deliver digital promotions from a single machine behind the bar.

"The Jevo team has been great to work with," said Steven McCurdy, Hurricane Harbor manager. "After a successful test, we have expanded the program and Jevo is now a part of our beverage program for our Texas locations."

•getjevo.com



Called the "Keurig for Jello shots," Jevo is the first fully automated gelatin shot prep machine. COURTESY JEVO

The 'scoop' on Belmont Park's new Tilt-A-Whirl

Custom Larson ride honors 20th year of park's Sweet Shoppe

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIEGO — The ride lineup at **Belmont Park** in Mission Beach became decidedly sweeter in March with the debut of an ice cream-themed Tilt-A-Whirl from **Larson Intl., Inc.**, of Plainview, Texas.

The decorative variation on an amusement that has delighted fun-seekers around the world since 1926 — an industry legacy now produced exclusively by Larson — is no random treat. Located across the midway walk from the park's Sweet Shoppe, the new ride is celebrating the ice cream stand's 20th year of operation with seven specially fabricated fiberglass vehicles.

Chris Villarreal, Belmont's strategic pro-

motions coordinator, told *Amusement Today* that the Tilt-A-Whirl creates "a cohesive experience in the central area of the park" anchored to the Sweet Shoppe, which is known for its generous portions and diverse selection of ice cream flavors offered in house-made waffle cones and bowls. The park's longest-serving food location, it has scooped more than 900,000 gallons of ice cream since its introduction in 1999.

The ride has been designed to provide an optimal experience for both passengers and observers, with a partially sunken installation that makes the 43-foot-diameter platform level with the midway surface. "This configuration allows for better interaction with guests on the ride and those watching from ground level, so they have more visibility with each other and can capture long-lasting memories with improved photo opportunities," Villarreal said.

Larson's **Hunter Novotny** described the attraction to *AT* as "one of a kind... an unusual request. Being so close to the ocean, Belmont was really looking for a unique Tilt — not only from the theming aspect, but with a lot of components made from stainless steel rather than mild carbon steel in order to combat the salt air."

Having already created customized Tilts for several parks, including a shark-themed unit for **Pacific Park**, about 130 miles up the coast in Santa Monica, and a turkey-themed unit for **Holiday World** in Santa Claus, Ind., Novotny's team welcomed the challenge.



The Tilt-A-Whirl at Belmont Park features seven ice cream cone-shaped vehicles, including one that is ADA compliant (below left). It is located just across the midway from the park's 20-year-old Sweet Shoppe, which inspired the attraction. COURTESY BELMONT PARK; LARSON INTL., INC.



"Once Belmont explained to us their famous ice cream shop and that they wanted a continuation of that 1950s ice cream parlor style, we were excited to see what the ride could become," Novotny said. "And what better ride than a Tilt-A-Whirl to bring nostalgia to life? Belmont was hugely involved in choosing from different renderings of concepts and choosing colors for each set of components."

"They did a great job narrowing the theme into exactly what they were looking for, and it provided us with a unique and fun project."

Belmont Park, whose

upgrades and additions so far this year include a new drop tower ride called **Zero Gravity** from Italy-based **Moser's Rides**, is very happy with Larson's work.

"We're always looking to improve the overall guest experience," said Villarreal. "Guests have been thrilled to experience the new ride, which they can view from the Sweet Shoppe. And they'll often walk over for ice cream after riding on the Tilt-A-Whirl."

It's the cherry on top of a park institution that wears its "sundae best" every day.

•belmontpark.com



Hunter Novotny of Larson Intl. celebrates his company's completion of Belmont Park's new Tilt-A-Whirl with a Sweet Shoppe treat. COURTESY LARSON INTL., INC.

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Old and new combine at Clementon Park

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

CLEMENTON, N.J.— Guests this summer to **Clementon Park and Splash World**, South Jersey's century-old amusement park, will be able to make new memories on four new-but-classic rides.

The 112-year-old park will open for the 2019 season May 24 with the addition of a Pirate Ship, manufactured by **SBF-Visa Group**; Scrambler, by **Eli Bridge**; Tilt-A-Whirl, by **Larson International** and Dragon Coaster, by **Wisdom**. The Pirate Ship is a brand new ride and the other three were purchased from another location. **Rides 4 U, Inc.**, brokered the acquisitions.

"Our guests have fond memories that go back for generations," said General Manager Dan Jankovits. "We want to celebrate those good times and create new ones together. This year we are taking a walk down memory lane, adding four classic, new rides that can be enjoyed by all ages."

The new attractions are joining 24 existing rides at the amusement and water parks.

"With the addition of these four classic rides, Clementon Park and Splash World is answering our guests' request to bring back the memories of more than 100 years of family entertainment in South Jersey," said Debbie Evans, spokesperson for the park.

Park officials also are inviting guests to share photo memories for a chance to win a family reunion for up to 30 people.

The first of four "Bring Back the Memories — Clementon Reunion" contests launched April 22. Guests were encouraged to collect and write captions for their favorite photos from Clem-



Clementon Park and Splash World, Clementon, N.J., will open the 2019 season with four new rides: a Dragon Coaster by Wisdom (top), a Scrambler manufactured by Eli Bridge Co. (above left), a Tilt-A-Whirl from Larson International (above right), and an SBF-Visa Group Pirate Ship (right).
COURTESY CLEMENTON PARK

ton Park and Splash World from 1907 to 2018. More contests will be held throughout the season, with four winners receiving a free family reunion for up to 30 family members hosted at the park.

Evans said they also have removed the former Bounce House in Kiddie Land and upgraded it to an obstacle course bounce house for the 2019 season.

Clementon Park & Splash World is the Delaware Valley's only combination amusement and water park. It draws residents of New Jersey, Pennsylva-

nia, and Delaware. It is among the oldest continuously operating amusement parks in the country.

Since 2008 there have been major, modern additions to the park including rides, slides and a 23,000-square-foot wave pool.

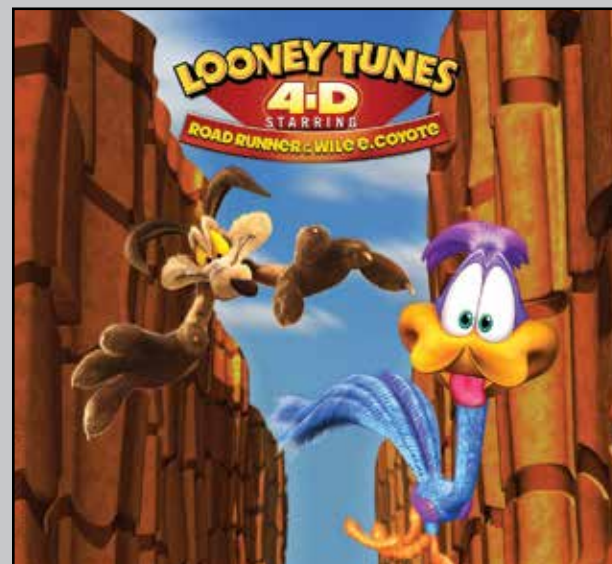
It was founded by New Jersey Assemblyman Theodore Gibbs as a simple swimming operation on Clementon Lake and grew steadily over the years.

Today the park is owned by Premier Parks, led by former Six Flags CEO Kieran Burke.

clementonpark.com

Wile E. Coyote chases the Road Runner to Movie World Germany

GERMANY — Movie Park Germany is rolling out the red carpet in 2019 for a season filled with new attractions. Two iconic characters are celebrating their comeback for a limited time at the park with the new theatrical adventure **Looney Tunes 4-D Starring Road Runner & Wile E. Coyote**. In addition, the new Paw Patrol Adventure Bay area opens in May with exciting attractions and interactive features as well as the mysterious Area 51 – Top Secret, a re-theming of the popular Bermuda Triangle ride (scheduled to open in June).
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SeaWorld Orlando is 'sweepin' the clouds away' with Sesame Street

AT: David Fake
Special to Amusement Today

ORLANDO, Fla. — On Wednesday, March 27, **SeaWorld Orlando** officially invited guests to come play in the street—**Sesame Street**, that is, the park's new themed land.

The world was introduced to *Sesame Street* when it premiered on PBS stations in November 1969. The show is celebrating its 50th season in TV Land this year, but there is now a big party happening in Orlando every day, and SeaWorld wants families to come out, have a seat on that famous stoop at 123 Sesame Street, and meet the new neighbors.

Sunny Day

The six-acre interactive land has been developed on the former site of Shamu's Happy Harbor between the Bayside and Shamu Stadiums in the park. While there is much that's new to see and do on Sesame Street, the rides are a mix of new attractions and creatively rethemed rides that have been given new life with overlays of the show's iconic characters. Most notable of these are Super Grover's Boxcar Derby, a 2006 **Zierer** Force Three family roller coaster that formerly operated as Shamu Express and Abby's Flower Tower, a **Zamperla** Samba Tower (previously Jazzy Jellies). The two new play areas are Rubber Duckie Water Works, a splash area themed around Ernie and his Rubber Duckie, where kids can cool off from the heat of the Florida Sun, and Count-Around Playground, a dry playground themed to numbers and Count von Count.

The land is flanked on both ends by the famous street signs, but at the heart of Sesame Street is building number 123, with its welcoming and easily-identifiable stoop, complete with Oscar the Grouch's garbage can (Don't knock on it, or he'll tell you to "SCRAM!"). Across the alley is another well-known

Sesame Street comes to life at SeaWorld Orlando. Highlighting the new land is Super Grover's Box Car Derby Family Coaster (right). COURTESY SEAWORLD ORLANDO



building, Mr. Hooper's store, which doubles as a replica of the store from the show, but also as the merchandise shop for the land. **Amanda Trauger**, creative development manager for SeaWorld, told AT that the two main buildings on Sesame Street took some extra creative thought to design. The design required the approval by Sesame Workshop, since no one has ever seen above the first floor of the buildings (the television set does not extend beyond a view of the first floor).

Painted on the outside wall of the Hooper's Store building it says, "If you need it, Hooper's has it." And, indeed, Hooper's does. From pins to T-shirts to capes to meet-and-greet photo ops with Cookie Monster and Elmo, there are many ways to drop some cash, including \$30 for the Elmo Interactive Light-Up Bubble Wand with smart technology, that not only emits a sea of bubbles, but is also the key to unlocking interactive opportunities and hidden surprises throughout the land—anywhere there is a yellow star. These bubble wands have taken a cue from the interactive Harry Potter-themed wands available for purchase at **Universal Orlando**.

In addition to the meet-and-greets, there are many other opportunities to interact with your favorite Sesame Street characters. At "Story Time with Big Bird," the tall yellow guy welcomes guests to gather around his nest for a story and some fun banter,

and various other roaming costumed characters, including Oscar, throughout the day. However, the best way to see all your favorites is to be on sidewalks of "The Street" when SeaWorld Orlando's first-ever daily parade, Sesame Street Party Parade, makes a stop with its eight floats and 13 life-size characters. This 30-minute, energetic, interactive parade hits the streets several times (currently three times) throughout the day and allows guests to dance and play alongside the characters, dancers, and floats.

As far as food and drink, Eats on the Streets has all you need for when your inner Cookie Monster gets the "nom noms." SeaWorld Executive Chef **Hector Colon** has created several food and drink options available at four different walk-up counters in the food truck-themed area. You can cool off with a frozen soft-serve/Ice swirl or fruit-on-the-bottom frozen non-alcoholic drink (no alcohol is sold on Sesame Street), grab one of four different specialty grilled cheese sandwiches, or Hawaiian Grilled Chicken Tenders, and finish with a giant cookie with a surprise—it's a cookie within a cookie.

Sweepin' the Clouds Away

After several years of downward-trending attendance, SeaWorld is now riding an up-swing that began last year. **SeaWorld Entertainment**, SeaWorld Orlando's parent company, is betting that the



addition of the Sesame Street land and the expansion of its 39-year partnership with **Sesame Workshop**, Sesame Street's parent company, will continue that upward trend. After all, the Sesame Street IP is in the same educational vein for which SeaWorld is known. It is their hope that it is more widely embraced and less controversial than their animal education programs.

Sesame Workshop feels strongly about its licensing partnership with SeaWorld, too. In a press release, the Senior Vice President of North America Media and Licensing **Scott Chambers** said, "Theme parks represent one of the most powerful ways for families to engage with and delight in the Sesame Street characters. Sesame Street at SeaWorld Orlando will enable us to establish deeper connections with even more families while helping the Workshop sustain its nonprofit and educational mission."

SeaWorld has extended its licensing partnership with Sesame Workshop through 2031, and if all goes as planned, they will not only be able to tell you "how to get to Sesame Street," but will also be singing, "...everything's A-OK."

Of Special Note: On World Autism Awareness Day, just a week after opening Sesame Street, SeaWorld Orlando announced that the park has become a Certified Autism Center by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education



Story Time with Big Bird is held regularly at his nest. AT/DAVID FAKE

Standards (IBCCES). Alongside SeaWorld's other two properties, Aquatica Orlando and Discovery Cove, which have already received the designation, Orlando now lays claim to the first family of parks in the world to receive the autism center certification. **Mark Pauls**, SeaWorld Orlando park president, said he is "incredibly proud" of the inclusivity represented by their commitment to equip their team members and ambassadors with the necessary knowledge, skills, temperament, and expertise to interact with all families and special needs children on the autism spectrum. The park has incorporated one such "Quiet Room" within Sesame Street for guests needing some time away and relief from sensory stimulation.

•seaworld.com/orlando



The new area comes to life with the Sesame Street Party Parade featuring, popular characters from the series. The Elmo & Cookie Monster Meet-and-Greet (right) is a popular photo op with families. AT/DAVID FAKE



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Caesars Entertainment taps joy of flight with Fly Linq zipline

First attraction of its kind on Vegas Strip also goes backward

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

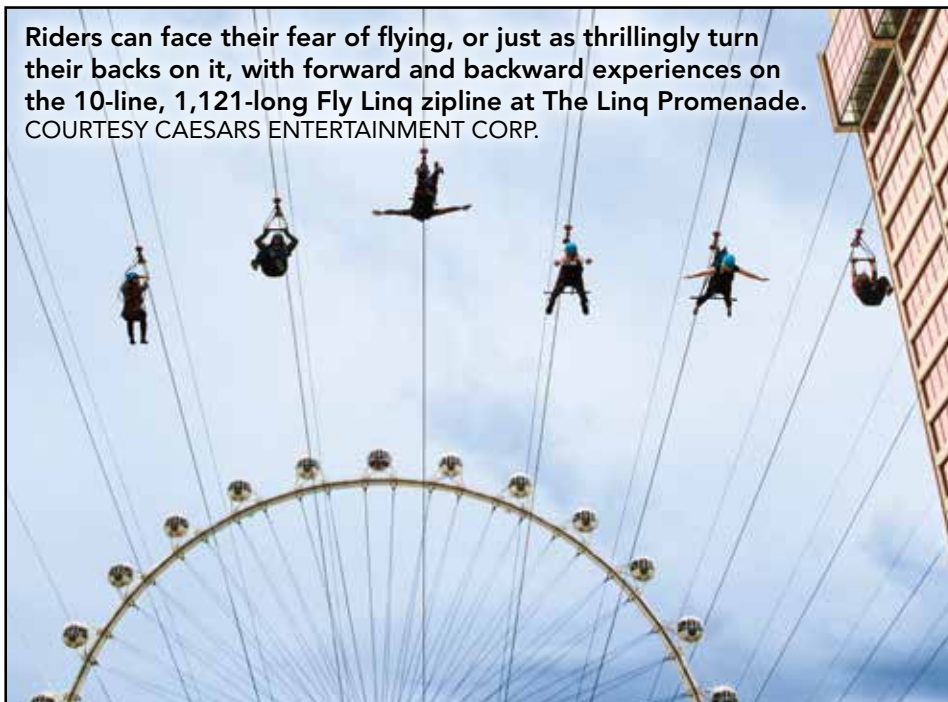
LAS VEGAS — Caesars Entertainment Corp. faced two challenges when it decided to add a second major ride at The Linq Promenade. It needed something that would complement the open-air retailtainment district's spectacular High Roller observation wheel, and it needed a place to put it.

With ground-level space fully leased in the corridor, the only way to go was up.

The casino resort operator partnered with Las Vegas-based adventure ride supplier Xventure LV, LCC, to develop the first zipline experience located on the Strip. And following an extended preview and operational rehearsal period last fall, Fly Linq officially soared in with the New Year.

The \$20 million attraction features 10 side-by-side ziplines offering both seated and superhero flying positions. It launches from a 14-story tower at the Strip end of the district, sending riders along a 1,121-foot course over

Riders can face their fear of flying, or just as thrillingly turn their backs on it, with forward and backward experiences on the 10-line, 1,121-long Fly Linq zipline at The Linq Promenade. COURTESY CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORP.



the plaza eastward toward the High Roller at about 35 mph. The approximately 40-second experience brakes to a halt on a platform at the base of the observation wheel, with

the exit winding through a souvenir photo stand and a gift shop.

Shaun Swanger, senior vice president of attractions, retail and leasing for Caesars Entertainment, told *Amusement Today* that the "positives" arising from a feasibility study, coupled with the five-year-old district's success, led to the project's greenlighting.

"People are loving these adventure attractions — you're seeing more and more of them pop up," Swanger said. "We had the opportunity to create the first zipline in the dead center of the Strip, and it was just great that The Linq Promenade was the perfect length for it. Everything was sort of going in our favor, saying, 'You need to build a zipline.' So we did."

Characterizing the High Roller, which serves as both a destination and a dramatic backdrop for Fly Linq, as a "social experience attraction," Swanger pointed out that the new zipline delivers the thrill quotient. "We do really well in Vegas with the bundling of attractions, and they are working so well together for the different experiences they give."

As of early April, Fly

Linq's own different seated and superhero experiences — Swanger admitted to favoring the latter — have been multiplied by two with the option of ziplining backward. "I don't know of any other zipline that does it," he said. "Because of the way that the cables latch on, someone on the operating team realized that it could work with very minor adjustment. So we said, 'Well, why not?'"

Caesars has coordinated with Xventure in the hiring and training of Fly Linq's personable staff, resulting in highly efficient suit-up and dismount procedures focused on safety. "It took a little bit of time to really get it down pat," said Swanger, referring to the checking and cross-checking involved in the rider harnessing and line hook-up processes. The only significant technical change since the zipline's preview period, he noted, involved adjusting the braking distance before the landing platform.

Swanger, who previously worked in management for shopping center developer **Westfield USA**, joined Caesars in 2015 and has spearheaded the creation of the company's attractions division while see-

ing The Linq Promenade to a leasing status of 100 percent. In mid-April, an interactive, fun-house-style experience called Pop Vegas debuted in the district with an exhibit titled "Tattoo'd America." Coming later this year is Kind Heaven, a \$100 million, 90,000-square-foot, Southeast Asia-themed immersive entertainment center and music venue conceived by **Perry Farrell**, frontman of the alternative rock band **Jane's Addiction** and founder of the touring festival **Lollapalooza**.

Swanger observed that the demand for non-gambling diversions in Vegas is being driven by visitors looking to "jam-pack as much as they can" into their typically three-day stays.

"Attractions have been on such a growth spurt here because they're short, exciting experiences. And you can do them in between dinner and a show, or in between your bar hopping. That's why I've really pushed The Linq Promenade in the direction of being the place for the best attractions in Vegas."

•caesars.com/linq

Big wheel celebrates fifth year



In March, The Linq Promenade feted the High Roller observation wheel on its fifth anniversary. Anchoring the outdoor retailtainment district since its opening in 2014, the 550-foot ride was recognized as the tallest attraction of its type by Guinness World Records. It has offered experiences ranging from yoga and karaoke sessions to chocolate tastings in its 28 climate-controlled, 22-foot-diameter circular cabins, where more than 450 weddings have been performed. "It immediately became the number-one paid attraction in Las Vegas," said Shaun Swanger, senior vice president of attractions, retail and leasing for operator Caesars Entertainment. "After five years, we're still going strong." COURTESY CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORP.



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Rabbitland children's area is expanding

Liseberg partners with Gosetto for dark ride

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GOTHENBURG, Sweden — Following on the heels of its high-thrill coaster, Valkyria, in 2018, Liseberg's next big project will cater to the younger set.

Although an announcement last fall indicated Kaninlandet (The Rabbit Land) children's area would be expanded in 2020, more details arrived this spring with the reveal of Underland, a new highly-themed dark ride.

"Since The Rabbit Land was built in 2013, our guests have come to know the characters *above* ground," said David Schofield, creative director at Liseberg. "What the rabbits have done underground has been a secret — until now."

Called Underland, the ride will be supplied by Italy-based Gosetto.

The investment from the park will be 150 million SEK (almost \$16 million).

"With Underland, we will set new standards for this type of experience in Sweden," said Andreas Andersen, CEO and president, Liseberg.

When asked by *Amusement Today* as to what took Liseberg to Gosetto, Andersen replied, "It was in fact an open procurement process, where all suppliers could bid on the system. Gosetto had a very competitive product and excellent references."

"We began discussions with the Liseberg team in 2018 and it was evident from our first meeting this was going to be a creative collaborative adventure for both the park and our company," said Lisa Gosetto, co-owner,



The Underland dark ride is expected to accommodate 850 guests per hour. The elaborate theming will be showcased on the exterior as well as inside the dark ride. COURTESY LISEBERG



Gosetto. "The Liseberg professional team had specific creative and technical requirements for the ride, but were also receptive to suggestions, options and recommendations we had."

Track length will be 190 meters (623 feet) giving a ride length of three minutes, 20 seconds. Operated with 18 four-passenger vehicles, Underland is projected to accommodate 850 riders per hour.

When Valkyria was introduced last season, an older children's dark ride was retired. "We promised our guests that we would replace this with something bigger and better," said Andersen.

In the process, a children's theater will be relocated. A temporary location will be erected for 2019 before a new, permanent theater will appear in a new format elsewhere in The Rabbit Land.

Many companies are involved with the project. Liseberg and England-based Quarry Fold

Studio are responsible for the concept. Animatronics will be provided by Lifeformations of Bowling Green, Ky. Liseberg will turn to P&P Projects of The Netherlands for the theming.

"This is the first time we have worked with them, but we very much look forward to working with P&P," said Andersen.

"What made this partnership so special for the Gosetto team was the synergy of the Liseberg team — from the building contractor to the creative team to operations and even the fire system consultant — all were involved from the very beginning to avoid any potential issues or problems during production and installation," said Gosetto.

Liseberg has featured a rabbit as the park's mascot for decades.

"The rabbit was really a coincidence," Andersen told AT. "In 1980, the rabbit was introduced as a mascot, together with a bear and a penguin. The two latter remain a parenthesis in the Liseberg history, but the green and pink rabbit stuck around. For the first three seasons the rabbit lived a rather anonymous existence, but in 1983, the year when Liseberg turned 60, it emerged in the limelight as the symbol of the park. And in 2013, the rabbit was given a home — Kaninlandet (The Rabbit Land) with rides and attractions, a playground, restaurants and a picnic area."

Underland is expected to open in the spring of 2020.

"The complexity of this project is the biggest challenge," said Andersen. "We have not built a dark ride in almost 50 years. And working with not just a ride system, but with theming and AV and animatronics and everything else creating an immersive experience is complicated. But it is also fun. And we are in good hands with Quarry Fold, P&P, Gosetto and Lifeformations."

•liseberg.com

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Hersheypark celebrates 100th anniversary of its Carrousel in 2019

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

HERSHEY, Pa.— Along with family-friendly rides, 13 world-class roller coasters and daily live entertainment, the 2019 Springtime in The Park held last month at Hersheypark also marked the first opportunity for guests to ride the park's 100-year-old Carrousel in its 100th anniversary year.

Springtime In The Park is held on weekends in April at the park and provides guests with a taste of what they will experience during the full operating season.

While the Carrousel took center-stage during the event, guests also were treated to expanded culinary offerings including an all-new **Chick-fil-A** food truck and a redesigned menu for the **Outpost**, a dedicated gluten-free and nut-free stand in the Pioneer Frontier area.

Those with a sweet tooth indulged in new King Size Milkshakes at **Simply Chocolate** dessert shop inspired by



Built by Philadelphia Toboggan Co. just after WWI, Hersheypark's Carrousel design reflects sentiments of the era with Miss Liberty and American Flags on the outer rim. It features its original 66 hand-carved horses. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

the Carrousel and Reese's Cupfusion, the all-new interactive gaming ride opening during the summer.

Guests also noticed a new theme for two popular kiddie rides in the Founder's Way area in advance of Reese's Cupfusion.

The Carrousel took thousands of guests for rides during last month's spring event. Built

by **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** in 1919 and known as the PTC #47, the ride has had a rich history.

It began operating at Hersheypark in 1945 following stints at two other amusement parks, **Liberty Heights Park** in Baltimore, Md., and **Enna Jet-tick Park** in Auburn, N.Y.

It features all 66 original, hand-carved horses, which



are situated in four rows. The elaborately designed Carrousel horses are the staple of this classic ride. Guests can choose between 42 jumping horses that go up and down, 24 stationary

horses and two chariots. From circus horses to prancing hunters and a horse painted chocolate brown and gold in

► See HERSHEY, page 21

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►HERSHEY

Continued from page 20

honor of the **Milton Hershey School**, there is an option for everyone. Lucky guests might even get to ride the only horse that has a closed mouth.

When the Carrousel arrived at Hersheypark in 1945, it was installed in a carousel pavilion along Spring Creek where it remained until the winter of 1971. During the off season of that year, the Carrousel was partly renovated and carefully moved to the Carrousel Circle area of the park, housed underneath a large metal canopy painted red, white and blue that paid homage to the time period in which it was built.

This is the last season the Carrousel will be in that area of the park. Park officials announced plans in 2018 to relocate it to a new place of honor at the front entrance of Hersheypark for summer 2020 as part of Hershey's Chocolatetown.

Following are some other Carrousel facts:

- Since the Carrousel was built right after WWI, the ride design reflected the sentiments of the day and includes Miss Liberty and American Flags on the outer rim.

- In 1975, the organ that produces the traditional Carrousel music was completely restored. It is a 153-duplex **Wurlitzer** Military Band Organ that contains 164 pipes, 54 keys and 16 bells. Restoration was again completed for the 2019 season to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

- In 1978, Hersheypark maintenance personnel completed a restoration of the hand-carved wooden horses, chariots and ride decoration.

- Meticulous painting and any necessary restoration is completed every off-season on the horses.

• hersheypark.com



Built in 1919, the Carrousel arrived to Hersheypark in 1945. The ride's horses have been meticulously cared for. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK



Of the 66 original, hand-carved horses, 24 are stationary and 42 are jumpers. Only one horse has a closed mouth, seen above. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

Cedar Fair president and CEO joins Board of Directors

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair announced that **Richard A. Zimmerman**, Cedar Fair's president and chief executive officer, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of its general partner, **Cedar Fair Management, Inc.** Zimmerman will serve the remaining portion of **Tom Klein's** term, which expires in 2020. Klein, a member of the Board since 2012, stepped down from the Board effective April 10, 2019, to focus on his new role as managing partner at **Certares Management LLC**, an investment and management company.



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AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Adoption day is the ultimate rite of passage for every animal seeking a home, and it's now the inspiration for **Universal Studios Hollywood's** (Universal City, Calif.) lively new ride, *The Secret Life of Pets: Off the Leash*. Opening in 2020, the ride is based on **Illumination's** 2016 *The Secret Life of Pets* and upcoming sequel, which answers the question, "What do your pets do when you're not at home?"

In this all-new fully immersive ride experience, guests will assume the roles of stray puppies as they join a familiar cast of leading characters from *The Secret Life of Pets*, including Max, Snowball, Gidget, Chloe, Duke and a host of other animal friends on the ultimate quest of finding forever homes.

The adventure will blend live, dimensional and animated characters with hyper-realistic media as guests zip along a track aboard ride vehicles through bustling New York City streets towards the pet adoption event. Along the way, guests will face an array of challenges and meet up with fellow animal pals eager to help guide them toward their destination.

The Secret Life of Pets: Off the Leash will be located adjacent to the *Despicable Me Minion Mayhem* and *Super Silly Fun Land* attractions.

Illumination's *The Secret Life of Pets 2*, the next chapter in the franchise, arrives in theaters June 7, 2019.

Fun Spot America, located in Orlando, Fla., is now the official theme park for **Florida Citrus Sports**, its bowl games and **Camping World Stadium**, Florida's Citrus Sports' stadium located in Orlando.

As part of the five-year partnership, Fun Spot America will join **AdventHealth, Massey Services** and **SunPass** as one of four main stadium partners. Fun Spot America's name will be associated with Florida Citrus Sports and will receive signage within the interior of the seating bowl and year-round, multi-media seats.

Fun Spot America opened its original Orlando location in 1997. The company also operates Fun Spot America locations in Kissimmee, Fla., and Fayetteville, Ga.

The **Polar Journey** exhibit, located adjacent to **Shark Reef Aquarium** inside **Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino**, Las Vegas, has extended its run through Sept. 15, 2019.

Offering eight interactive scenes, the exhibit has drawn more than one million visitors since it debuted in March 2017.

UK's **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** has launched a new product called *Open Dated Wristbands*. Visitors may now purchase the wristbands online and then visit on any day of the 2019 season giving them much more flex-

ibility. Wristbands for specific dates also may still be purchased as well.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach offers more than 100 rides and attractions including 10 roller coasters.

Combining bowling and live entertainment and being marketed as "Australia's first rock 'n' roll bowling destination," the **Amplifier Bowl** opened in Perth, Australia, April 12.

Amplifier Bowl is a relaunch of the **Amplifier Capital** club, which closed for a little more than two months before reopening. Under the revamp, the venue's warehouse bar area has been transformed into a bowling alley with three lanes. The bowling alley extends into a renovated outdoor patio area for live music. Other upgrades also were made.

The Amplifier Capital opened in 2000. In January, operators came under intense scrutiny after telling its female employees they had to wear low-cut T-shirts. The move was reversed and apologies were made, but the club was not able to overcome the criticism.

Operators hope the changes will be positive. They were geared toward the growing trend of providing activity-based socializing in Australia.

The **Assiniboine Park Zoo**, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Can., is expected to open its new *Stingray Beach* aquatic exhibit May 16. The exhibit will open in the Zoo's new rotating exhibit gallery and with a selection of cownose and southern stingrays.

The stingrays will get a 1,300-sq.-ft. shallow home, which will allow visitors to touch them. An optional feeding experience will be offered three times daily for an additional cost. Windows along the sides of the pool offer underwater views of the rays.

To replicate the optimal living environment, the new exhibit features a sophisticated, state-of-the-art water filtration system with multiple redundancies and 100% back-up power.

Officials at **Arnolds Park Amusement Park**, located in the city of Arnolds Park, Iowa, have announced the grand opening of a replica of the park's historic ballroom, the *Roof Garden*. Plans include hosting a concert series in August. Four of the groups to perform that month also performed in the original venue. Those groups are **Tommy James & the Shondells**, **Glenn Miller**, **The Romantics** and **Head East**.

For decades, the *Roof Garden* was known throughout the Midwest for hosting marquee swing and rock 'n' roll bands. The two-story ballroom was demolished in 1987. Construction began last fall on the new *Roof Garden*, which closely resembles the iconic ballroom.

The world's first neon themed trampoline park has debuted in Bozeman, Mont. **Jump Time Bozeman**, co-owned by **Chad Babcock**, **Katie Babcock**, and **Eric Anderson**, is the first trampoline park in the world to offer a variety of attractions that illuminate when exposed to black lights.

The 24,000 square-foot entertainment center includes a neon orange ninja course and is the first park to feature trampoline padding wrapped in a neon green vinyl, illuminating when it's exposed to black lights.

The Bozeman trampoline park is the fourth entertainment center to open under the family owned and operated *Jump Time* brand that includes locations in Meridian, Idaho, Boise, Idaho, and Twin Falls, Idaho.



Area15 founders Michael Beneville and Winston Fisher, shown with a hot rod created by Las Vegas-based sculptor Henry Chang, hosted the unveiling of a 42-foot-tall "A" that will greet visitors when their attraction opens in December. AT/DEAN LAMANNA; RENDERING COURTESY DESIGN + DISTILL

Area15 immersive concept readies for Vegas debut

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS — Previewing the creative flair it promises to deliver upon its planned opening this December, **Area15**, an experiential retail and entertainment complex under construction west of the Strip, unveiled a giant "A" marking its entrance during a March 26 media event.

The 42-foot-tall, steel-framed letter is the portal to a 200,000-square-foot development that, along with dining and shopping, will house art installations and immersive experiences — transporting visitors into fantastic, story-driven realms. **Meow Wolf**, a Santa Fe, N.M.-based art collective and production company that has made waves with its multimedia, interactive walk-through exhibits (and recently completed a dark ride called *Kaleidoscope* for **Elitch Gardens** in Denver), will be the anchor tenant.

The project is a joint venture of creative agency **Beneville Studios** and real estate investment firm **Fisher Brothers**, both of New York. Its name is a play on its Interstate 15-adjacent location and Area 51, the secretive U.S. military installation 83 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Speaking with *Amusement Today* during the event, Area15 co-founders **Winston Fisher**, CEO, and **Michael Beneville**, chief creative officer, were energized about the prospects for their concept, which they described as scalable and suited to other locations but one that could only be launched in this city.

"Vegas has an amazing art community and a creative class," said Fisher, who is also on Meow Wolf's board of directors. "We

recognized that, and Meow Wolf did, too. So this is very much for the locals. At the same time, we're trying to do something unique that taps into the fact that there are 42 million visitors who come here [each year]."

Fisher acknowledged that it was a challenge coming up with the right idea for the land owned by his company at the northwest corner of Desert Inn Road and I-15. "It took a lot of brainstorming, looking at things we saw happening in the world. Vegas has forced us to be so radically different and authentic."

"Our philosophy is not that this is the shiny toy," said Beneville, pointing out that Area15 won't be competing with the Strip's slick mainstream showmanship. "The consumer today wants to feel that they are choosing the adventure. Area15 is the raw landscape in which we can build those touch points and sensory pieces of the puzzle."

Area15 will offer 126,000 square feet for leasing along with a 40,000-square-foot indoor / outdoor space for live music, festivals, corporate events and e-sport tournaments. The spaces will be connected from the outdoor parking lot through the building's interior by the Spine, a promenade and bazaar lined with large-scale sculptures and industrial art.

The exploratory environment will deploy a range of technologies, including virtual / augmented reality, mobile apps and radio-frequency identification (RFID) bracelets.

"Getting the 'A' done is the symbol of being done with the outside," Fisher said. "Now it's time to build out the inside. It's very exciting."

•area15.com

Otherworld bringing mixed reality, unique experience to Ohio

AT: John W.C. Robinson
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Combining the best elements of an escape room, a haunted house, an art museum and an FEC, **Otherworld** is preparing to bring a truly unique experience to the Columbus area.

"I started creating haunted houses commercially when I was in college, transitioning into the escape game realm in 2015," said **Jordan Renda**, creator of Otherworld. "I started looking for the next iteration of the concept — something that combines interactivity and narrative of an escape game but with a larger space and production budget that allows for more creative freedom."

With 40 rooms for guests to explore, Otherworld features projection mapping, tactile experiences, puzzles and extensive theming.

"All of the different exhibits are meant to be viewed together, like different songs all working together to create a larger cohesive concept album," Renda explained.

In one room, guests are confronted with playful monsters in their bedroom, only to crawl under the bed and find a doorway into the world of the monsters.

"People are craving tactile experience," added Renda. "They want to be able to engage and interact with art and entertainment in new ways."

Otherworld designers created the majority of exhibits and attractions in-house. Five rooms were designed by accomplished artists, allowing guests to literally step into the artists' imaginations.

With a planned opening in May, Otherworld is readying for success.

"Our presale tickets have been popular, with over 10,000 already sold," noted Renda.

• otherworldohio.com



Guests literally step through a classic arcade game to find themselves inside of it and able to play (left). The majority of Otherworld's attractions and exhibits were designed and built by its in-house team. The digital space known as "Melt" (middle) was created practically using a 3D camera, a model room and colorful paint for a one-of-a-kind experience. Max Adrian (right) outfits a pneumatic spider being prepped for its debut in one of the attraction's 40 rooms. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

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AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

Over half-million attend 67th Miami-Dade County Youth Fair

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com



MIAMI, Fla. – A tremendous increase in attendance from last year helped propel the 2019 **Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition** to a successful outcome. Final attendance for the 21-day fair, held in **Tamiami Park**, totaled 552,404—a 21 percent increase from 2018. Free concerts and free parking returned which played a big part.

Overall the weather was not a hindrance. “We had one day and two evenings affected by rain. The remaining days were perfect for our guests to enjoy,” said **Eddie Cora**, president. This is his first year at the helm, replacing **Bob Hohenstein**.

The theme for the 2019 Fair was value, with a slogan, “Be There. The Fair!” Organizers promoted affordable ways for a family to attend and enjoy their community tradition. “We kicked off our sales season in November with Thanksgiving online promotions. We followed that up with an online promotion every month leading up to opening day in mid-March. The 2019 Fair brought back several promotions and/or price points. We brought back the 21-day admission pass which had a 28 percent increase in sales compared to 2017 (this was not available

in 2018) and reduced early admission opportunities to \$6.00 before 6:00pm. Opening day admission pricing was reduced to \$5 admission so a family of 4 could enter for \$20,” explained **Claudia Hernandez-Maltes**, director, marketing & entertainment. The fair also introduced \$3 Days March 30 and April 3, which resulted in nearly 30,000 guests taking advantage of this deal. This also included \$3 select foods and \$3 games; unlimited rides were \$23; a savings of \$5.00.

North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) brought 98 rides (52 major and 46 kiddie). **Jeremy Floyd** provided two of the rides for the fair: **Space Roller (Mondial Fair Attractions Top Scan)** and a **Jumbo Elephant Ride (Kolmax Plus)**.

Star Dancer (Technical Park Street Fighter) is a brand new attraction making its premiere at the fair. The other three rides new to the Youth Fair included a **Huss Giant Frisbee**, **Chance Rides Double Decker Merry Go Round** and **Love Bugs** (a vintage kiddie Himalaya-type-ride that NAME

The **Chance Rides Giant Wheel** was one of the five top-grossing rides. COURTESY CYNTHIA WRIGHT



The 21-day fair tried new promotions, including two \$3 days with special pricing on select food and games. COURTESY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR & EXPOSITION, INC.



refurbished). The top five grossing rides this year were the **Sky Ride**, **Chance Rides Giant Wheel**, **SBF/VISA Group Euroslide**, **Double Decker Merry Go Round**, **Zamperla Crazy Mouse Roller Coaster** and **Mack Polar Express**.

“We are proud to be a partner with the Miami-Dade Youth Fair for many, many years,” said **Amy Girton**, vice president of marketing for NAME. “Each year we bring top-class rides and thrills to the midway that delight the entire family! The Miami-Dade Youth Fair is a great way for NAME to kick off

our season. We look forward to working together for many years to come.”

On the culinary front, The Miami - Dade Youth Fair had

several new foods such as **Brazilian Cheesecake Funnel Cake**, **The Impossible Burger**, **Fluffy's Donut Sundae**, **Dilly Dilly Corn Dog**, **Dee's Ice Cream Waffle**, **Twisted Spicy Corn** and **Oreo Crepes** to name a few.

Three concerts were offered during the event. **Becky G** on March 15, **Zach Williams** on March 24 and **Farruko** on March 29. “Night Fever,” an Evening of the **Bee Gees** and a strolling piano act were popular with guests.

“We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the 2019 run of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition. Our strategy was to give guests



NAME provided 98 rides with one additional operator supplementing the midway with two attractions. Above right, a portion of the 98-ride midway as seen from above. COURTESY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR & EXPOSITION, INC.; CYNTHIA WRIGHT

► See MIAMI-DADE, page 26

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The 2019 fair enjoyed a 21percent bump in attendance. Free parking along with free concerts contributed to the larger crowds. COURTESY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR & EXPOSITION, INC.

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The skyline was aglow with thousands of lights from the ride midway provided by NAME. COURTESY CYNTHIA WRIGHT



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MIAMI-DADE Continued from page 24

the best value for their dollar, and the numbers show we succeeded. We thank our concessionaires for their generosity toward our Scholarship Program. Their annual fundraising event contributed

over \$60,000. In addition to the success of The Youth Fair, we will be able to give more than \$180,000 to graduating high school seniors seeking higher education at qualified schools," said Cora.

The Youth Fair, is the largest nonprofit charity event in South Florida. It is dedicated

to promoting education and agriculture while showcasing and rewarding youth achievement and providing quality family entertainment, all without taxpayer dollars.

2020 dates are March 12 – April 5, 2020 (except March 16-17 and 30-31).

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21-day Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo again drew the crowds

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HOUSTON, Texas — Considered by many to be Houston's signature annual event, the 21-day **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (HLSR)** welcomed 2,506,263 people in 2019. This was an increase over the 2,408,550 attendance from 2018, which was one day less. This figure included the **World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest**, held just prior to the February 25 opening day. However, the record was set in 2017 with 2,611,176 attendees.

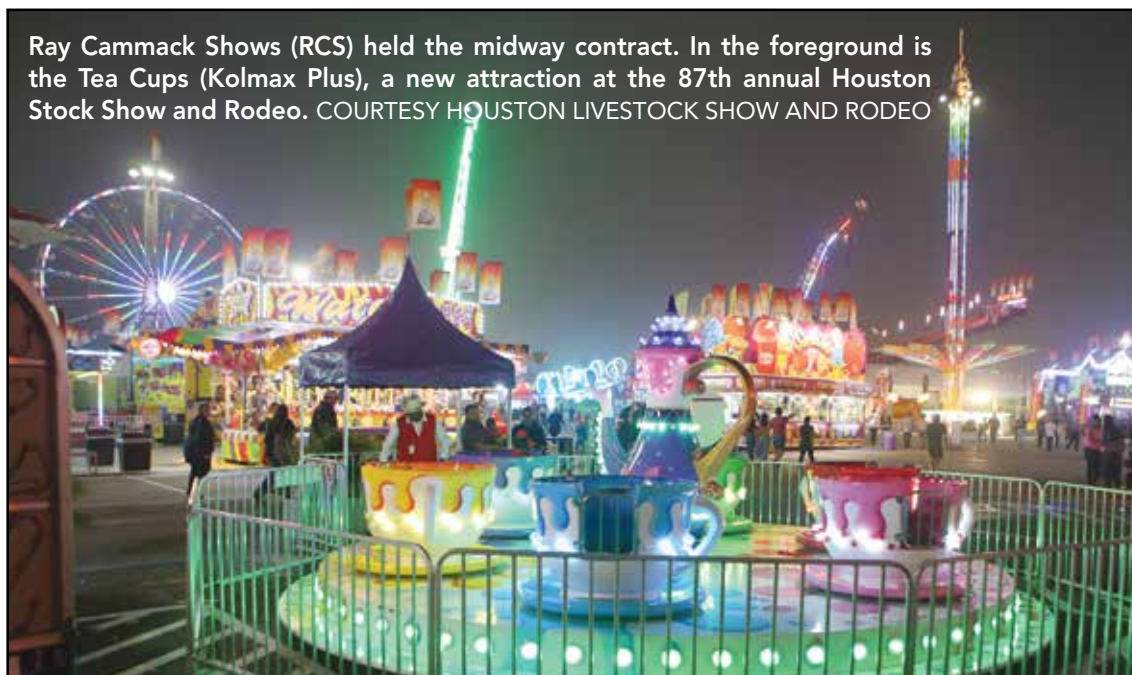
"Given early weather conditions, we are very pleased with this year's attendance. Though we began with some rainy days and two bitterly cold days, we finished extremely strong with fairly enjoyable weather over spring break," said **Joel Cowley**, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo president and CEO.

While there was no theme for the 2019 HSLR, the overall goal was to promote agriculture, their core mission.

Ray Cammack Shows (RCS), Laveen, Ariz. again provided the midway with help from a few other shows to supplement the ride offering. There were 83 rides, with 34 being kiddie ones. **Bruce Perelman (Caprice Enterprises)** booked in **Airmaxx (Guernieri & Company s.r.l.)**, **Speedway (Zamperla)** and **Windsurf (Soriani s.r.l.)**; **Joy Rides (Joyce Hutchins)** bought in her **Storm ride (Wisdom)**; **Luehrs Ideal Rides (Andy Schoendienst)** brought in a **Centrifuge (Wisdom)** and **Extreme (Technical Park)**; **Guy McDaniel** had a German fun house and **Allan Putter (AMI)** was booked in with two rides: **Sling Shot (Cassely's Fun Fair)** and a **Bungee Jump**.

New rides to appear at the HLSR included **Klondike**, a **Pinfari ZL42 Looping Roller Coaster** brought in by **Deggeller Attractions**. The carnival claims it is the only fully-portable looping coaster in the United States, with nearly 1,200 feet of track with an

Ray Cammack Shows (RCS) held the midway contract. In the foreground is the **Tea Cups (Kolmax Plus)**, a new attraction at the 87th annual Houston Stock Show and Rodeo. COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO



over-the-top loop. Six semi-trailers are needed to transport the ride; however that number may change as the show plans to re-rack the ride for easier setup/teardown.

Other rides new to the HLSR were **Happy Train (Jungmax)**, **Tea Cups (Kolmax Plus)**, **Ice Jets (Bertazzon)** and a **Fabbri Booster** that RCS owns named **Titan**. This 17-story thrill ride is the first one in the United States. The experience is likened to being on the end of an airplane propeller going up to 65 miles per hour, while experiencing up to 4 G's. The HLSR was the debut event for the 16-passenger ride weighing in at more than 200,000 pounds.

More than two and a half million rides were taken at the carnival this year. The most popular rides were **La Grande XL (Bussink)** 50-meter observation wheel, one of the largest portable models in North America and an RCS signature piece; **Skyride (Seatrek)**, **Ice Jets** and **Klondike Coaster**. It should be noted that RCS had three wheels at the show, the other two being a pair of 30-meter **Lamberink** models.

Of the 60 games RCS offered, they had two new group games manufactured by **Bob's Space Racers**, (**Little Squirts** and **Rising Waters**). A new food stand, (**Nitro**

Pop) and more than a dozen new food items premiered at HLSR. "My brother-in-law does media for the food department along with owning food stands on the RCS midway. He has a great relationship with media outlets and food critics there in Houston and at all of our locations, so it's always fun to see him get the communities pumped up and excited about deep frying, sugar coating and funky new food items all year!" said **Chris Lopez**, vice president, RCS Inc.. Some of the new food offerings this year included **Crawfish Pistolette**, **Falafel on a stick**, **Texas Wagyu Beef Tacos**, **Wagyu Beef Cattle Baron Burgers**, **Fruity Pebbles Shrimp Po'boy Sandwich** and **Banana Cream Funnel Cakes**.

"Our customers have really jumped on board with our new app that gives ability to our customers to purchase and add value from the convenience of their phones. Seeing guests use their phones at rides and games is taking some getting used to but we are happy with results. That, along with new self-service kiosks, new technology in ticket boxes and food stands, has us wondering what can we do next to be ahead of the game and industry leaders," said Lopez.

"Bad weather was a chal-

lenge in the opening days of the rodeo. Along with rain we also experienced three days of freezing temperatures. In the end we were very happy with 2.5 million guests visiting the event. Doing it safely and having fun is a true testament to safety being priority one — this is shared with our rodeo partners of 26 years. The balance and selection of rides and attractions at rodeo proved to be just what works for all. We couldn't ask for better partners than we have at HLSR and all of our events. When you have those partnerships that believe in the same values and safety that we do at RCS, [it's nice to be on the same page]," related Lopez.

Special promotions included **Family Wednesday** with free **NRG Park** admission for seniors, 60 and over, and children, 12 and under until 7 p.m. (It did not include rodeo/concert admission). Also each day from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. there were \$2 rides and games, along with a \$2 food or drink item at select food stands in the **Junction Carnival**. There were also season passes available at \$35.

Five new features debuted on the grounds this year including the **Rodeo Social Tower**. Standing 22 feet high by 36 feet wide, the interactive video screens were

located between **NRG Stadium** and **NRG Astrodome**. These digital screens included the daily schedule, grounds maps, social media content and more. Guests could also see versions of themselves in an interactive mirror with various filters and augmented reality.

A new theme song debuted at HLSR. "Welcome to the Show," written by former bull rider and country artist **Cody Johnson**, was played each night during the opening of each **Rodeo Houston** performance.

Weather this year hampered the event. Cowley explained, "The one thing that we can't control is the weather. It is fortunate that the world's largest livestock show and world's largest rodeo are both indoors, but there are people who want to access everything during their visit, including the carnival and outside attractions, so weather can certainly have an impact on our attendance."

Entertainment was a key component to the HLSR, with the final two performances upping the attendance game. Country performer **Brad Paisley** drew a crowd of 74,929 on the final Saturday, while **George Strait** set an NRG Stadium record by drawing 80,108 fans in a concert-only performance on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Also on the bill were **Lyle Lovett** and **Robert Earl Keen**. Strait broke his own previous record from 2013, when 80,020 fans were in attendance. This year marked Strait's 30th performance at the Rodeo, beginning in 1984.

"I think the lineup drove the majority of our attendance this year — it's the most diverse lineup we've had in quite some time. While we stayed true to our country roots, we also saw great value in mixing it up. In doing so, we drew a younger and more diverse audience and a larger number of first-time attendees," said Cowley.

In 2020, the dates are March 3-22.

•rodeohouston.com



The ride midway was located in front of NRG Stadium and NRG Astrodome (left). Deggeller Attractions brought in a newly purchased Pinfari ZL42 coaster (middle), Klondike, billed as the only traveling looping roller coaster in the U.S. More than 2.5 million rides were taken on the midway this year. Seventy-three of the rides were furnished by RCS, supplemented by 10 additional from six other carnivals. COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO



MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

The **IISA (International Independent Showmen's Association)** recently announced the 2020 Super Trade Show & Extravaganza dates for February 5-8. While the Gibtown show will be the same amount of days, the four-day event will now shift to Wednesday-Saturday, versus the Tuesday-Friday format used the two previous years. The 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. trade show features both indoor and outdoor rides, food supplies and equipment, concession trailers, electrical supplies, insurance companies, novelty items, plush toys, jewelry and more. This is in addition to educational seminars, along with nightly entertainment. Prior to 2018, the trade show ran five or more days. More than 7,300 attendees were at the 2019 show earlier this year.

Utah is now the 45th state with some type of ride safety bill. Recently Governor **Gary Herbert** signed into law rules for safety inspections. Parks and carnivals and other amusement facilities are now required to use safety standards developed by the **ASTM International Committee F24** and report injuries to the state. HB 381 calls for the establishment of a six-member and director **Utah Amusement Ride Safety Committee** within the **Department of Transportation**. Qualified independent safety inspectors will perform an annual in-person inspection of each amusement ride. Daily inspections by the owner-operator will be conducted as well. Owners must secure an annual amusement ride permit. The law also establishes minimum liability insurance requirements. HB 381, sponsored by State Representative **Val Potter**, goes into effect April 1, 2021.

Two amusement ride bills were recently signed into law by the **Commonwealth of Kentucky** Governor **Matt Bevin**. One bill includes rider responsibility legislation to help deter riders from engaging in certain conduct that may increase the risk of injury to the rider, other riders and ride employees. The second bill lowers the ride operator age requirement, allowing 16-year-olds to operate rides. Previously, amusement ride operators had to be 18 years of age or older.

Ohio's newly appointed agriculture director, **Dorothy Pelanda**, who recently took over the state's ride inspection operation, is now requiring amusement ride operators to forward all manufacturer communication regarding safety issues to state ride inspectors.

Pelanda instituted three new ride safety measures. First, the state's standard inspection forms, which document examinations, will now include a line for operators to sign stating that all relevant safety and maintenance communication from the manufacturer has been forwarded to the department. Second, all rides will be reclassified to identify those needing more comprehensive testing in addition to regular state inspections, taking into account hidden components integral to the safety of the ride. Third, when state inspectors issue written orders to replace or fix something, operators will have 14 days to respond in writing that they have done so. The department also plans to implement new software that alerts inspectors when the deadline has expired.

Ohio State law says that before Pelanda can alter any rules, the industry-controlled **Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety** must review

them and make recommendations. The Division of Amusement Ride Safety & Fairs falls under the **Ohio Department of Agriculture**.

The **Tennessee State Fair** is considering looking for a new site to call home as the **Nashville Fairgrounds** may no longer be a viable location. Part of the grounds will become a home for a new major league soccer stadium and "does not provide adequate space or facilities for the State Fair," according to the **Tennessee State Fair Commission**, the governing body of the fair. The commission is concerned about future growth and expansion of the annual ten-day fair. A new MLS expansion team is expected to occupy the stadium by 2021. The \$37.6 million project includes demolition of several buildings to make room for the stadium and construction of mixed use retail and residential areas. The **Tennessee State Fair Association**, the nonprofit responsible for producing the event, has concerns that include space for parking, the carnival midway and adequate space and facilities for farm animal and agricultural exhibitions. If the Nashville Fairgrounds is deemed not usable, a temporary alternate site may have to be found for the fair that is just five months away. The fair has operated at its current location since 1906 where it has been held annually except for four years during World War II. 2019 dates are September 6-15 with **NAME** providing the midway.

The **Greensboro (N.C.) Science Center** will soon have a brand new carousel and building thanks to the fundraising efforts of the **Rotary Club of Greensboro**. The group has raised \$2.9 million of the \$3 million goal. The custom-made carousel will be installed this month with daily, year-round operations starting in June. The carousel was manufactured by **Carousel Works**, Mansfield, Ohio. Money raised over the goal will go into a maintenance fund to help the science center operate the carousel. The carousel is located in the newly-formed, 400-acre, Battleground Parks District that encompasses the science center, **Guilford Courthouse National Military Park**, **Country Park** and **Tannenbaum Historic Park**.

The **OABA (Outdoor Amusement Business Association)** offices are on the move. With the recent hiring of **Greg Chiecko** as president, the organization will no longer be based in Winter Park, Fla. Effective May 1 the new address is: 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield Mass. 01089. The phone number is 407-848-4958. Its mission is to promote the preservation and growth of the outdoor amusement industry through leadership, advocacy and education.

Commonwealth of Virginia Governor **Ralph Northam** recently signed two bills eliminating the requirement in their state that schools open after Labor Day. Effective July 1, school districts will have the option of starting as early as two weeks before Labor Day each year. This is in direct contrast to the 1986 so-called **Kings Dominion** law that protected economic activity prior to the holiday, while providing student staffing at amusement parks and carnivals. Nearly half of the 133 school districts in the state already have a waiver to open prior to the holiday.

Powers Great American Midways on the road in 2019



Powers Great American Midways, Corfu, N.Y., is on the road for the 2019 season after a busy off-season at winter quarters in Whiteville, N.C. The show played a still date in Sanford, N.C., March 28 – April 7 with a mix of family and thrill rides. Featured attractions in Sanford included a **KMG Air Raid**, **A.R.M. Rock Star**, **KMG F5**, **Wisdom Alien Abduction** and **Sizzler**, **Mulligan gondola wheel**, **Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl** and three **Battech Enterprises** rides added late in the 2018 season: **Black Widow** (themed as **Kraken**), **Downdraft** and **Zero Gravity**. More equipment hits the route soon as Powers kicks off a spring route in late April starting with the **Apple Blossom Festival** in Winchester, Va. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON

Department of Homeland Security doubles visa number

WASHINGTON D.C. — The **Department of Homeland Security** announced it will approve 30,000 additional visas for the remainder of the fiscal year 2019.

This number is double the 15,000 released in 2018, it is still under the cap. These visas will only be for returning workers who worked in 2016, 2017 or 2018.

There will be a public comment period which could last a few weeks. Visas should then be available in about three weeks, rather than the two months originally projected.

The **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)** acknowledge the efforts of **Michael Wood** for leading the charge for the industry and the entire H2B community. Wood spent a great deal of time interacting with political leaders, coalition members and the group's lobbyist. In addition, OABA recognizes the efforts of **Greg Hartley** and his team at **Husch Blackwell Strategies**.

OABA continues to press on for a permanent solution to the ongoing visa limitations.

•oaba.org



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WATER PARKS & RECREATION

► Multiple waterparks readying new attractions — page 34

Kartrite brings water park resort to New York Catskills region

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — The \$180 million-plus **Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark** celebrated its grand opening in April. The resort includes a 324-room, all-suite hotel, and what is claimed to be the largest indoor water park in the state of New York. The resort also includes a spa and conference center as well as a family entertainment center, arcade and ropes course, climbing wall, standard bowling alley, laser tag, 3D gaming experience and virtual gaming arena. Innovative restaurants and bars and a tap room will provide a variety of dining and entertainment options.

The indoor water park is covered by an immense, barrel-shaped, 60,000 square-foot Texlon transparent roof supported by arched wood beams. The inside is kept at a balmy 84 degrees year-round.

Aquatic Development Group (ADG) designed and built the water park, with **ProSlide** supplying multiple high-profile slides. ADG provided a FlowRider surf simulator. ProSlide, **Vortex** and **Water Odyssey** supplied the children's equipment which includes a ProSlide Ridehouse 200 waterplay structure with 42 interactive features.

The 80,000-square-foot water park includes multiple raft slides, a lazy river, water-play structure, kids' activity pool with basketball, plenty of deck space including a mezzanine that overlooks the water park with lounge chairs and pay-extra cabanas. Copious amounts of landscaping and vegetation augment the theming of the water park which embraces the beauty and historic nature of the region. As is typical for indoor water parks, most of the slides start and finish indoors but penetrate the exterior wall of the building with the bulk of the fiberglass placed outside of the facility. The exception here is the Nor'Easter attraction —



The massive Nor'easter Tornado Wave slide (above) dominates the far end of the complex. The barrel-vault Texlon roof (below) keeps everything inside cozy and warm while letting in plenty of natural light. COURTESY ADG

a massive ProSlide Tornado Wave that dominates one end of the indoor water park and provides spectator appeal to those sitting on the mezzanine deck. ProSlide's other attractions include Time Warp, a CannonBowl 40; The Kraken, a Flying Saucer 30 with two covered saucer sections; and Jiggerty-Jaggerty a Dueling RallyRacer that has riders sliding side-by-side in an enclosed flume with a low separator so racers can see their opposition in the next lane.

The hotel is located next door to the \$1 billion, 100,000-square-foot **Resorts World Catskills Casino** that opened in February 2018 but has struggled to meet revenue projections.

"Following the recent opening of our second hotel, The Alder, the opening of the Kartrite marks the next phase in the growth of our campus," said **Kevin Kline**, general manager of Resorts World Catskills. "The addition further bolsters the selection of options and amenities we are able to offer our guests as an integrated resort destination."

The Kartrite will give a boost to the Catskills region, which is trying to revive itself as the major tourist destina-



tion it was decades ago. In the late 1800s rail service from New York City brought tourists into the scenic Catskill Mountains region to get away from the city and enjoy the cool mountain breezes. In the mid 20th century the region's resorts served as a haven for artists, musicians and writers. Outdoor recreation such as snow skiing, cycling, fishing, hiking and camping have kept the area popular, but it was hoped the addition of a gambling casino would attract more tourists from New York City metro area. Also in the area, **Legoland New York**, just 30 miles away, is scheduled open in 2020.

"The Kartrite combines modern-style and luxurious

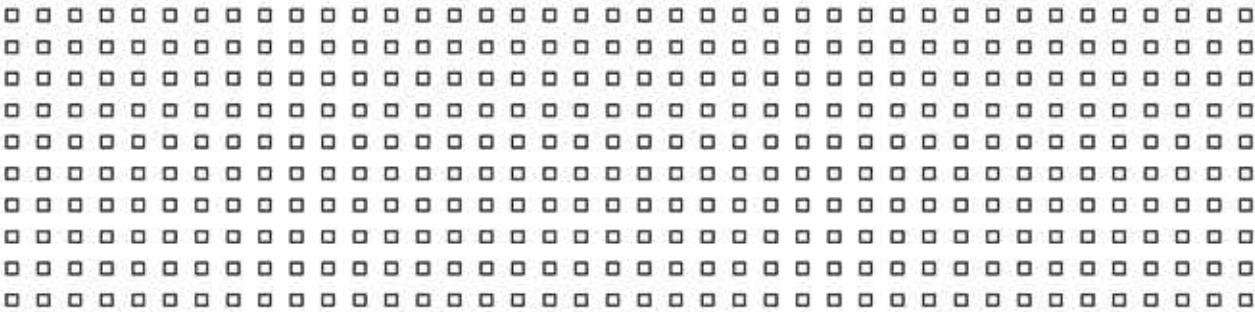
appointments, the natural beauty of the Catskills, and fun for every age. And with the biggest indoor waterpark in the state, year-round warm weather just got a lot closer," said Kartrite's General Manager **David Kohlasch**. "We're thrilled to be part of the region's current revival and tourism boom and eager to welcome families this spring to a different type of adventure."

The concept for the facility came from the principals of the Pocono's **Camelback Resort**, **Ken Ellis** and **Arthur Berry III**. The Kartrite is named after Camelback's fictitious explorer character, Sir Kartrite Van Der Berris, who has traveled all over the world and eventu-

ally settled at Camelback's **Aquatopia** indoor waterpark. Ken Ellis is also the CEO of ADG. The property is owned by **EPR Properties** of Kansas City and will be managed by **Benchmark Global Hospitality**, a Texas-based resort company, that has 40 years of experience managing resorts and conference centers all over the world.

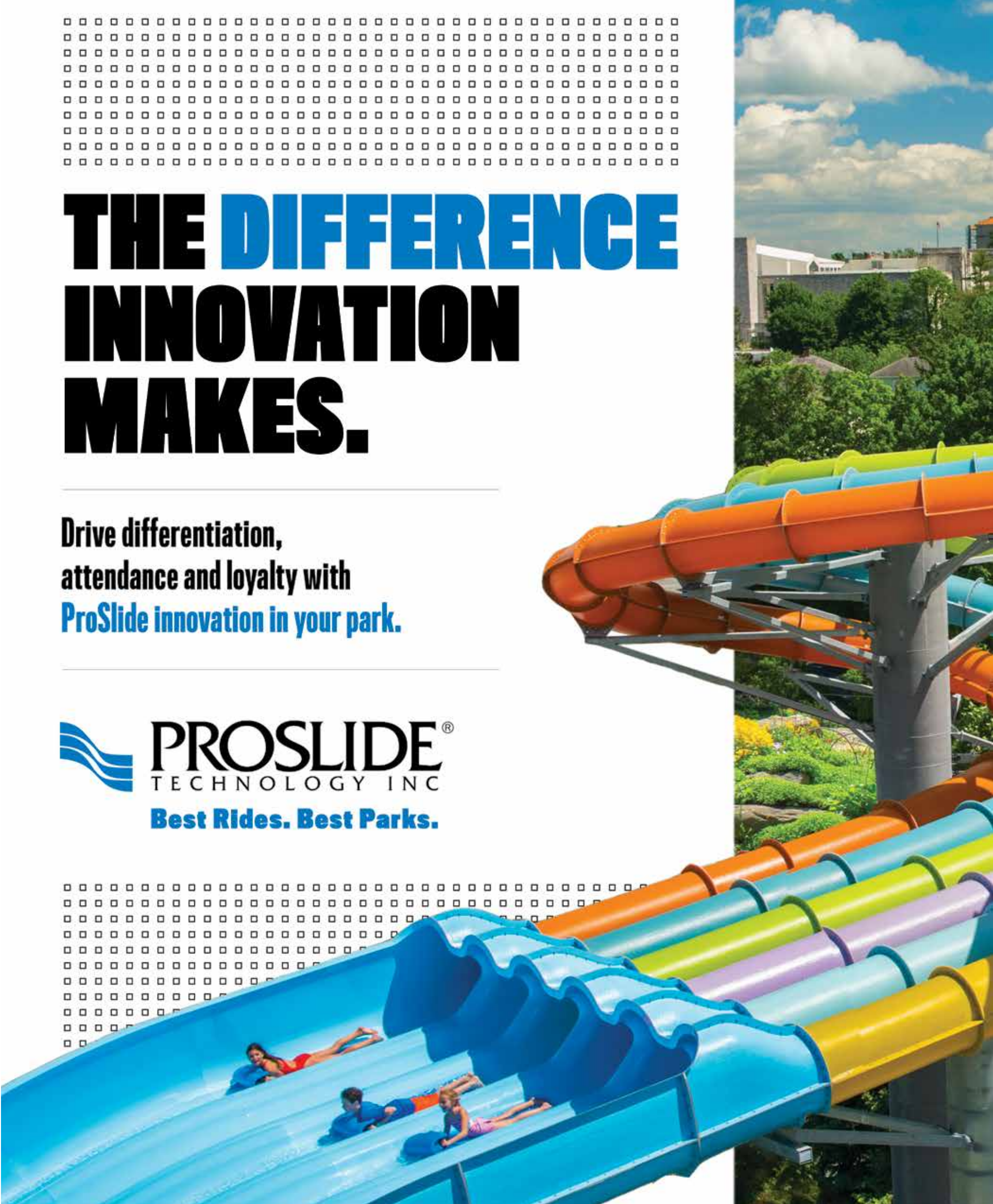
The indoor water park is free for guests staying at the resort. Guests may visit the water park on the day they check in and stay as long as they like on the day they check out. Day passes are available for non-hotel guests with a 10% discount given to residents of Sullivan County where the resort is located.

•thekartrite.com



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After two years of litigation, the U.S. District Court in California ruled in favor of **WhiteWater West**, recognizing that WhiteWater owns the patents to the nozzle surf machine attractions commonly known as FlowRider. In 2012 WhiteWater West acquired the FlowRider technology from parent company **Wave Loch** and founder **Tom Lochtefeld**. Shortly afterward **Pacific Surf Designs** started manufacturing and selling a competing product, Pro-Flow, and filed for three separate patents. Pacific Surf Designs co-founders, **Richard Alleshouse** and **Yong Yeh** both worked for Wave Loch and the court found that Pacific Surf Designs half-pipe/quarter-pipe invention was related to, and emanated from, Wave Loch's business and research.

The Court also ordered that Mr. Yeh be removed as a co-inventor of the three patents, finding that "Mr. Yeh did not contribute to the conception of the inventions" and that "Mr. Yeh's alleged patentable contributions were either rejected by the patent office or mirrored pre-existing technology by Wave Loch."

WhiteWater CEO **Geoff Chutter** stated, "We are happy that the Court recognized these 'industry firsts' originated with the Wave Loch/WhiteWater team and are pleased that these three patents are being returned to WhiteWater. We fought this case because if innovation is to prosper in our industry we need to protect the rights of intellectual property."

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, is now home to an indoor splash pad including two small water slides, a mushroom fountain and tipping buckets. The new splash pad was the result of a CA\$9.7 million renovation to the existing **Seven Oaks Pool**. The facility reopened on March 28, with new fam-



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert

jseifert@amusementtoday.com

ily changing rooms, universally-accessible washrooms, and enhanced public lobby, a new meeting space and a small teaching pool.

Funding was provided by the Canadian Government, the province of Manitoba, and the city of Winnipeg.

Construction has begun on a new **Gippsland Regional Aquatic Center** in Latrobe, Victoria, Australia. The new center will replace the old Traralgon pool that was no longer functional. The aquatic center will include a new eight-lane, 50-meter indoor competition pool with spectator seating, a 25-meter outdoor pool, warm water pool, indoor water play areas, waterslides, a gym, geothermal heating and a wellness center. The adjacent **Traralgon Indoor Sports Stadium** will also be renovated. The state government has contributed \$63 million to the aquatic center and indoor sports stadium projects while Latrobe City will chip in \$11 million.

The former **Tan-Tar-A Resort, Golf Club Marina & Indoor Waterpark** in Osage Beach, Mo., will become another Margaritaville this spring. Tan-Tar-A resort was acquired in 2017 by Driftwood Acquisitions & Development and renovations began immediately. **Margaritaville Lake Resort, Lake of the Ozarks** will become the first lake resort under the Margaritaville brand, and will introduce its unique vacation state of mind to the Ozarks.

"Margaritaville is synonymous with a laid-back, no-worries lifestyle, which blends in perfectly with the Lake of the Ozarks," **Ann Walters**, director of sales for Tan-Tar-A Resort said. "The Margaritaville lifestyle translates into virtually every destination and appeals to a broad range of consumers."

The majority of the property's guest rooms and exterior have been refreshed to incorporate Margaritaville's "casual-luxe" design. All buildings in the resort complex have been painted a shade of warm sand with a white trim, and guest rooms feature Margaritaville touches such as sky-blue walls, warm wood elements and bright accents. The lobby, along with several other resort features, including the 20,000-square-foot indoor water park are currently being renovated.

Water Slide World in Lake George, New York, will not reopen and the current owner is attempting to sell the water park equipment that sits on the land. Water Slide World closed last year following the death of its founder, **Gary Konkowski**. Konkowski and his wife had run the park for nearly 40 years.

When it opened in 1979 the park was a trend-setter in the industry, adding New York's first wave pool. However, as newer, more modern parks became prevalent, it had started to show its age and was becoming less popular. **Six Flags** has both an indoor water park resort and outdoor water park at its **Great Escape** property, also in Lake George.

The Konkowskis tried to sell the park in 2004, but without any takers, they decided to continue to run the park. Now, without her husband, **Dawn Konkowski** has no interest in running the park on her own.

Infinity Racers coming to Schlitterbahn Galveston

GALVESTON, Texas — **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island** is adding a new multi-million dollar set of slides.

Infinity Racers, which is scheduled to open June 2019, is a pair of space-themed, racing head-first mat slides. At eight stories tall and as long as two space stations, Infinity Racers delivers a unique water slide experience.

Both of the racing slides are nearly fully enclosed the entire time (except for the loading and splash zones) with multi-colored fiberglass creating distinctive lighting effects inside each slide.

Schlitterbahn chose to add a space theme to the slides in honor of the men and women of

NASA and the **Johnson Space Center**, who have inspired the world to reach for the stars. Given the park's proximity to the space center, it's also a salute to the region.

The two slides — dubbed individually as Orbiter and Galaxy — feature a multi-colored fiberglass structure. The water slides will open in time to be part of the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing.

Infinity Racers is the brainchild of both Schlitterbahn Galveston Island's general manager, **Ron Sutula**, and water slide designers at **WhiteWater West**.



COURTESY SCHLITTERBAHN

Daytona Lagoon readies new attractions

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A new mat racer water slide, from ride manufacturer **Arihant Water Park Attractions**, will replace the once popular Kraken's Conquest ride, at **Daytona Lagoon**. The new four-lane attraction, featuring 100-percent light resin transfer molding and partial tunnels with translucent rings, will be a first for a mat racer waterslide in Central Florida.

"The natural light from the Florida sun will beam onto the enclosed slide tunnels for light effects of translucent colored rings with special pattern effects that leave the rider with the impression they are going through a high-speed time warp tunnel. Upon exiting the enclosed slide tunnels, the riders will enter an open straightway for an exciting race to the finish," says **Jim DeBerry**, Senior Manager, North America for Arihant Water Park

A second attraction is a new pendulum tube ride which launches from the same tower as the mat racer. The new pendulum slide is similar in shape to a half-pipe and is suitable for riders who are 42 inches or taller. Riders will drop more than 50 feet into the halfpipe and oscillate back and forth until losing momentum at the bottom of the slide.

Sunlight will add lighting effects to Central Florida's first mat racer. COURTESY DAYTONA LAGOON



Polin play structure debuts at Tropical Islands

BRADENBURG, Germany — **Tropical Islands Resort** recently opened a highly-interactive, multi-level, themed waterplay structure from **Polin Waterparks**. The 50-foot structure has six different levels interconnected by 116 stairs. The multi-level structure features eight different waterslides including a bowl slide and enclosed tube slides. All of the metal structure is camouflaged with wood-like theming including a themed hut and a large, three-dimensional, themed tipping bucket. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS





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► Celebrating NEAAPA's 106th anniversary — page 44 / What's New Guide — page 46

Amusement Expo breaks records, spotlights traditional fun

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS — A stroll around the floor of **Amusement Expo International 2019 (AEI)**, held March 26-28 at the **Las Vegas Convention Center** and nearby **Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino**, revealed that — amid exciting advances in virtual reality (VR) and other technologies — traditional arcade fun, including enhanced variations on it, is very much in demand.

Games, redemption toys, coin-op kiddie rides and black-light accessories were among the products highlighting the decade-old combined tradeshow of the **American Amusement Machine Association (AAMA)** and the **Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA)**. The event was co-located with the **National Bulk Vendors Association** and the **Laser Tag Convention**.

The exposition enjoyed



This year's Amusement Expo International saw nearly 3,500 registered attendees. Triotech celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Typhoon coin-op motion simulator (center), while Sega presented the U.S. debut of its ATV Slam video game. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



some of its best numbers ever this year, with a sold-out floor featuring 179 exhibitors (up from 169 in 2018) attended by 1,773 buyers (up from 1,710) and 3,490 total registered visitors (up from 3,104). Notably, this year's AEI welcomed 262 attendees of the adjacent **Digital Signage Expo**, sponsored by the **Digital Signage Federation**.

AEI's March 26 educational program saw about 2,000 participants attending 32 sessions

across a range of location-based entertainment (LBE) and family entertainment center (FEC) operational topics. While VR was the subject of a special 14-session educational track hosted by LBE expert **Bob Cooney** and was represented by eight companies on the show floor, laser tag surged this year with 15 exhibitors (up from 12 in 2018). Additionally, the **Laser Tag Convention** marked its fifth year with AEI as it celebrated laser tag's 35th anniversary as a commercial game.

Two days of play

An AEI triple threat as coordinator of the **Laser Tag Convention**, curator of the Louisville, Ky.-based **Laser Tag Museum** and vice president of sales for **Lasertag.com** by **Zone**, **Erik Guthrie** paused between sprints across the show floor to talk about his company's latest product: the **Helios2 Laser Tag System**.

Sporting a three-inch LCD screen with instructional video and high-definition speakers, the new system's phaser also features a patent-pending magnetic charging system that represents a major improvement over jack-style charging.

"It disconnects when the phaser is moved, reducing the possibility of equipment damage as well as warranty and maintenance costs — which means more money for the operator," said Guthrie, who revealed that

his team is working on technology that will integrate laser tag and augmented reality.

Arcade game displays occupied large swaths of the convention center's North Hall 1. **Stern Pinball's** exhibit was consistently packed with attendees wanting to try the company's latest machines themed after **The Beatles** and the mid-1960s TV show **The Munsters**. **Betson** was on hand with its new dual-seat, target-rich **Nerf Arcade** video game, while **Sega** rolled out its high-definition **ATV Slam** — with a realistic quad-bike mounted on an air cylinder-based motion platform.

Triotech was back with its compact, two-person **Typhoon** coin-op motion simulator, which turns 10 this year. **Christian Martin**, vice president of marketing, told *Amusement Today* that the machine comes pre-loaded with 10 ride films in honor of its milestone birthday and remains one the company's top sellers and money-earners. "Families, grandparents, women — everybody likes it. It's got wide appeal, and that's part of its success. We're very happy with it."

Italy-based kiddie ride supplier **Memopark** had several colorful coin-op vehicles on display. Founded in 1987 as a subsidiary of photo booth and vending machine manufacturer **Dedem**, it has clients worldwide. A num-

ber of its products have theming inspired by high-profile, television cartoon-based IP.

Luca Favero, company president, told AT that his team carefully evaluates programs and characters to determine what might succeed as amusements. "We lease TV properties that rank in the top five, I would say, and have had a longer life. *Peppa Pig*, *PJ Masks* and *Scooby-Doo* have been very powerful licenses."

The array of redemption and vending toys and goodies was vast. **S&B Candy & Toy Co.** offered a rainbow of candy, toy and plush mixes suitable for crane machines sold by its **St. Louis Game Co.** division and others. Both **Artoys Trading, LLC**, and **Sureshot Redemption** stocked their booths with racks and/or catalogs filled with eye-catching playthings ranging from extraterrestrial keychains to glow-in-the-dark yo-yos.

Two vendors — **Flagship Carpets** and **Omega Carpet** — unfurled durable, blacklight-reactive fluorescent floor coverings designed for arcades, bowling alleys, laser tag arenas, roller rinks and other high-traffic locations serving food and drink.

In business for almost 40 years, **Omega Carpet** specializes in custom designs incorporating any logo or pattern via **Chromajet** inkjet imaging.

► See EXPO, page 40

Laser tag fan becomes first to play game in all 50 states



On March 28, while the **Laser Tag Convention** at **Amusement Expo International** was toasting the 35th anniversary of commercial laser tag in Las Vegas, a woman's mission to play the game in all 50 states concluded successfully at **Laser Quest** in North Richland Hills, Texas. The goal was achieved on **International Laser Tag Day** by **Laurie Jean Britton**, a laser tag blogger from upstate New York. Britton was greeted at **Laser Quest** by laser tag inventor **George Carter III** (both shown above), who was presented with a plaque commemorating the debut of his laser tag game invention, **Photon**, in the Dallas area on March 28, 1984. COURTESY LAURIE JEAN BRITTON

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►EXPO

Continued from page 38

The company's **Kristin Messick** told *AT* that Omega's Infinity stain protection can survive 40 hot-steam extractions without losing any of its resistance. "You can pour red dye on it and get it out with cold water," she said, noting that this characteristic of the special nylon carpet also makes it popular with casinos, theaters and nightclubs.

The club scene is the primary market for **Ami**. With a few taps from a smartphone, the company's centralized Co-Pilot jukebox management platform can create and edit location managers (e.g., bartending staff), control volume and music selection, and check cashbox and mobile revenue, as well as

relay security notifications from other apps. The system offers several free-standing and wall-mounted jukebox options that can meet any commercial need.

"You can easily program personalized birthday messages and greetings into the system so that they show up on the connected display monitors," said **Ami** representative **Kapil Mistry**, adding that Co-Pilot is in about 30,000 locations across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. "This can encourage patrons to stay longer and leave larger tips."

Winning recognition

Prior to the opening of AEI's trade show floor, outgoing AMOA president **Jim Marsh** of **Hart Novelty**, Bellingham, Wash., welcomed exhibitors and attendees. **Pete Gustafson**,

AAMA executive vice president, and **Holly Hampton**, AAMA, president, then presented their organization's 2019 awards. AAMA's Best of Year honors went to **Crane Payment Innovations, Inc.**, Malvern, Pa.; **Shaffer Distributing**, Columbus, Ohio; and **Bay Tek Entertainment, Inc.**, Pulaski, Wis. AAMA's Lifetime Achievement Award was given posthumously to **Ralph Coppola**, a former AAMA board member and founder of **Innovative Concepts in Entertainment, Inc.**, Clarence, N.Y.

Xtreme Action Park in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., took AAMA's FEC of the Year award. AMOA presented Innovator Awards to two manufacturers: **Bay Tek Games** for its Connect 4 Hoops basketball redemption game and New York City-based **TouchTunes**

for its new Fusion Music System.

At the exposition's conclusion, AMOA elected a new class of eight directors and seated new one-year-term principal officers. The latter, with titles: **Emily Dunn** of **Tom's Amusement Co.**, Blue Ridge, Ga., president; **Greg Trent** of **Beyer & Brown**, South Daytona, Fla., first vice president; **Chi Babich** of **Game Exchange** of Colorado, Denver, treasurer; and **Sam Westgate** of **J&J Ventures**, Effingham, Ill.

AEI moves to New Orleans and the **Ernest N. Morial Convention Center** next year, with the educational program slated for March 9 and the trade show taking place March 10-11. It returns to Las Vegas in 2021. Visit AEI online for information and updates.

•amusementexpo.org



Ruud Koppens (left) and Pawel Cebula of ETF.
COURTESY ETF RIDE SYSTEMS

ETF-based ride wins Thea Award

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Bazyliaszek, the new dark ride at **Legandia Park** in Poland, was awarded for outstanding achievement in the Limited Budget category at the **TEA Thea Awards Gala**.

ETF Ride Systems provided the trackless Multi Mover vehicles on the ride. **Jora Vision** designed the decor and theming. **Alterface** applied its interactive technology.

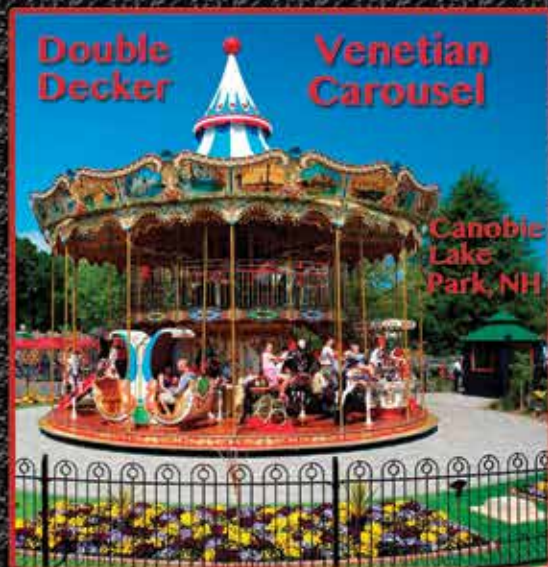
The award was officially presented during the 25th annual TEA Thea Awards Gala, held April 13 at **Disneyland Resort** in Anaheim, Calif.



Monica Vologni and **Luca Favero** of **Memopark** (far left) showed off their coin-op kiddie rides at AEI. **Omega Carpet's Kristin Messick** (middle) welcomed clients seeking custom carpeting, while **Ami's Kapil Mistry** demonstrated how the **NGX Infinity jukebox** works with the company's Co-Pilot management platform.
AT/DEAN LAMANNA



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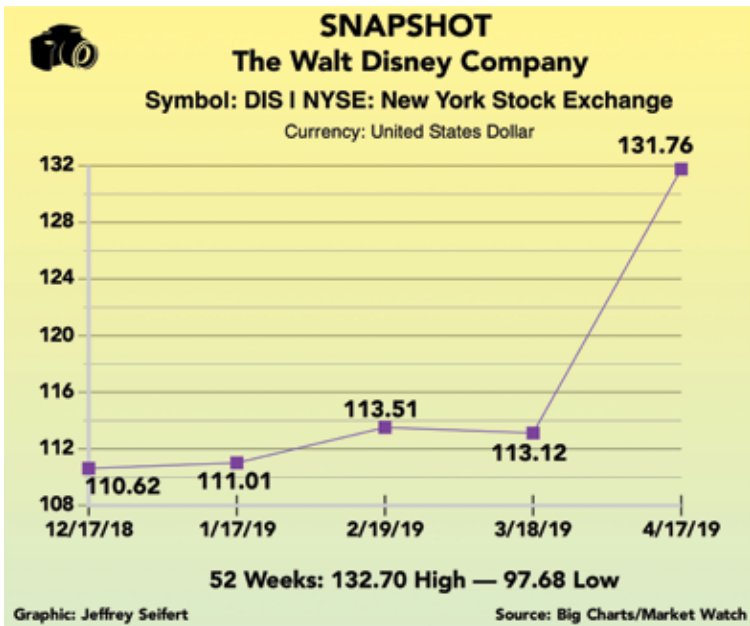
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Bertazzon America LLC - Carlo Guglielmi
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MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 04/17/19	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	35.87	40.60	26.88
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	358.00	415.70	304.50
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	53.16	67.85	45.73
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	42.56	42.61	30.43
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	131.76	132.70	97.68
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.25	0.46	0.23
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	75.89	79.51	52.80
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	4280.00	4345.00	2850.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.62	2.29	1.18
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.56	7.75	5.45
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	27.56	36.73	21.61
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	10.10	15.18	9.84
Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.	RCL	NYSE	123.24	133.60	89.48
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1524.00	2160.00	1244.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	23.74	32.47	14.69
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	50.41	73.38	46.68
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	694.00	704.00	590.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	3.44	3.5	1.73

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal



DIESEL PRICES		
Region (U.S.)	As of 04/15/19	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.153	\$0.037
Midwest	\$3.010	-\$0.006
Gulf Coast	\$2.899	-\$0.011
Mountain	\$3.082	-\$0.055
West Coast	\$3.252	\$0.074
California	\$3.967	\$0.180

CURRENCY	
On 04/17/19 \$1 USD =	
0.8852	EURO
0.7649	GBP (British Pound)
111.95	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0056	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3963	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3371	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

Forecast: parks market worth \$70B by 2025

SAN FRANCISCO — The global amusement parks market is expected to reach \$70.83 billion by 2025, progressing at a compound annual growth rate of 5.8 percent, according to a study conducted by **Grand View Research, Inc.**, a market research company comprising more than 425 analysts and consultants monitoring 46 industries worldwide. The proliferation of hotels and related amenities on park properties and increasing consumer spending capacity is expected to stimulate market growth. Among ride types, the mechanical rides segment, primarily driven by the popularity of roller coasters among visitors in the 19-35 age group, is projected to witness the highest growth over the forecast period. While North America has been the leading regional market and is anticipated to see further significant growth, rapid expansion of the market overseas — especially in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region — also is a primary influencing factor.

FEC biz to approach \$41B by 2025, says firm

PORTLAND, Ore. — According to **Allied Market Research**, increasing disposable income and the greater availability of diversified gaming and entertainment options, combined with a rising preference for indoor entertainment and favorable youth demographics, are expected to propel the growth of the global family entertainment center (FEC) market. Per a report recently published by the company, the FEC market is expected to garner \$40.81 billion worldwide by 2025 at a compound annual growth rate of 10.2 percent. The report analyzed various segments including properties up to 5,000 square feet, 5,001-10,000 square feet, 20,001-40,000 square feet, 1-10 acres (poised for the most growth), 11-30 acres and 30-plus acres. Key market players included in the study included **Dave & Buster's**, **Cinergy Entertainment**, **KidZania**, **Legoland Discovery Center**, **Lucky Strike Entertainment** and **The Walt Disney Co.**

L.A. design company's park client honored

LOS ANGELES — **Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park**, designed by North Hollywood-based **Legacy Entertainment**, was named Best Theme Park at the **China Cultural & Tourism Development Conference** recently held in Beijing. The marine park, opened last fall, won the event's coveted Ferris Award for its scale, theming, quality and high construction standards. "Working with the team at Haichang, we all shared the goal of elevating the standard of what a domestic Chinese theme park could be — and this award is a testament to our partner's commitment to that vision," said **Taylor Jeffs**, Legacy's president and COO. "We hope this recognition will inspire others to reach for the same standard of animal care and guest experience that Haichang has achieved in Shanghai." The park features aquariums showcasing many marine life species, plus interactive attractions and rides — including an **Intamin** launch coaster, a rapids ride, a train ride and a skyway gondola.

Magic Memories, SkyWheel partner in Fla.

ORLANDO — **Magic Memories**, a provider of personalized photo-based keepsakes for the global attractions industry, has partnered with **SkyWheel Panama City Beach** to offer guests media products that capture their visit to the 187-foot-tall observation wheel. The recently opened SkyWheel attraction, which will be accompanied by a new 18-hole miniature golf course at its base this summer, features fully enclosed gondolas with glass windows and doors for optimal views of the Emerald Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The Magic Memories system documents the experience for visitors with the creation of a personalized photo book. It also provides direct access to personal digital content for guests to share via their social media accounts.



OBITUARIES

Dave Smith, founder, Walt Disney Archives

BURBANK, Calif. — Historian Dave Smith, founder of the Walt Disney Archives, repository of the Walt Disney Co.'s entertainment legacy, died Feb. 15. He was 78.

Born and raised in Pasadena, Smith was Disney's chief archivist from 1970 to 2010. He was hired by Roy O. Disney, Walt Disney's brother, to catalogue items in Walt's executive suite, which had remained untouched after the company founder's passing in 1966. In 2007, Smith was named a Disney Legend.

Bob Iger, Disney chairman and CEO, said Smith "was the unsung hero of Disney's history who, as our first archivist, spent 40 years rescuing countless documents and artifacts from obscurity, investing endless hours restoring and preserving these priceless pieces... and putting them in context to tell our story. [We] are indebted to him for building such an enduring, tangible connection to our past that continues to inspire our future."

Smith was an author of several books, including *Disney A to Z* (an official encyclopedia), *Disney: The First 100 Years*, *The Quotable Walt Disney* and four volumes of *The Ultimate Disney Trivia Books*.

Robert J. Hoban, Six Flags maintenance VP

MANCHESTER, N.J. — Robert John Hoban, former vice president of maintenance for Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J., passed away March 20. He was 62.

A lifelong New Jersey resident, Hoban was born in Passaic and lived in Saddle Brook and Toms River before settling in Manchester five years ago. He oversaw the construction of many attractions at Great Adventure during his more than 25 years with the park. After retirement, he ran Bob Hoban Consulting and managed Funtown Pier (Seaside Park).

Hoban is survived by his wife, Barbara Vecchiarelli; children Ryan Hoban, Katelyn Watters and Brittany Hoban; stepchildren Jennifer Vecchiarelli, Stephanie Vecchiarelli and Dominick Vecchiarelli; and siblings Carol Hoban of North Carolina and Paul Hoban of California.



Smith



Hoban

Steve Bell, business solutions architect at **Gateway Ticketing Systems** of Gilbertville, Pa., has been selected to serve on the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** North America Manufacturers and Suppliers (M&S) Sub-committee. Bell's 17 years of industry experience, including nine years with Gateway, will aid him in representing suppliers and manufacturers as well as the attractions market generally during his one-year term. The IAAPA sub-committee is responsible for developing programs and providing services to engage attractions industry manufacturers and suppliers with IAAPA's mission.



Bell

Dallas-based global sports entertainment center chain **Topgolf** has hired **Rebecca Fine** as chief people officer. Reporting to **Topgolf Entertainment Group** CEO **Dolf Berle**, Fine has more than 30 years of experience in human resources and operations. She spent seven years at **Panera Bread** as chief people officer, leading human resources during the height of the company's growth from 300 to more than 1,600 locations and 50,000 associates. Fine was also COO of **Honolulu Coffee Co.**, where she oversaw operational standards, and most recently led strategies for improved daily operations at **Lion's Choice Restaurants**.



Fine

Space Center Houston has added **Richard E. Glover, Jr.**, to its senior leadership team as vice president of communications and marketing. Glover is responsible for the center's overall communications strategy, public relations, marketing and sponsorships / partnerships as well as website, social media and crisis communications. With more than 25 years of communications and marketing experience, including high-level posts at **The Florida Aquarium** in Tampa and the **Texas State Aquarium** in Corpus Christi, he has led successful strategic communications and marketing campaigns to elevate brand awareness.



Glover

Benchmark Resorts & Hotels has named **David Kohlasch** general manager of **The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark**. The property, located in Monticello, N.Y., in the scenic Catskill Mountains, opened in March on 1,600 wooded acres at the site of the **Resorts World Catskills** entertainment complex. (See story, page 31.) Kohlasch brings to the position 35 years of senior hotel executive experience. He was previously general manager of the **Chase Park Plaza Royal Sonesta** in St. Louis and general manager of the **Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta**. He also served as general manager of **Lansdowne Resort** in Leesburg, Va., which Benchmark operated for many years.



Kohlasch

Montréal-based **Triotech**, a creator of award-winning immersive and interactive media-based attractions for the entertainment market, has appointed **Sylvain Larose** as COO. A key player at Triotech for the last 15 years, most recently in the role of CFO, Larose now supervises all company operations worldwide. He previously held several positions with Triotech, including general manager. Larose's extensive experience within the industry gives him a strong grasp of strategic, financial and operational issues.



Larose

Thinkwell Group recently purchased Montréal-based creative studio **Réalisations-Montréal**, simultaneously announcing its hiring of ex-**Delaware North** executive **Louise Murray** as president of Thinkwell's Los Angeles design and production studio. Both moves accentuate the continued expansion of Thinkwell globally over the past year. Murray most recently served as senior vice president, operations, for Delaware North's **TD Garden** group. Prior to that, she was vice



Murray

ON THE MOVE

'Power Broker' insures business of fun

Dave Harman, area vice president for Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. Risk Management Services, has been included in Risk & Insurance magazine's "Power Broker 2019" list. Harman, based in Bellevue, Wash., was recognized in the February issue of the trade publication for his four decades of service to customers in the amusement industry. The broker's diverse client roster crosses all major industry categories and includes Central Amusement Intl., LLC (Luna Park), Coney Island, N.Y.; Silverwood / Boulder Beach, Athol, Idaho; Funtastic Ride Co., Inc., Portland, Ore.; and Chance Rides Mfg., Inc., Wichita, Kan. COURTESY DAVE HARMAN



Harman

president, creative entertainment, parks and resorts, at **The Walt Disney Co.** and was vice president, tour planning and partnerships, at **Cirque du Soleil**. Réalisations-Montréal, founded in 2000 by **Roger Parent**, former executive producer and production vice president at Cirque du Soleil, develops new presentation technologies for museums, attractions, corporate brand experiences and hospitality clients.

Along with the recent revamping and upgrading of its production facility in London, **Scruffy Dog Group** has made new hires.

The company has brought **Dylan Lardner-Burke** into the fold as production director. Originally from South Africa and holding a degree in fine arts and entertainment technology, Lardner-Burke moved to the Middle East, where he played a key role in the delivery of recent major leisure projects including **Ferrari World**, **Atlantis**, **Bollywood** and **Motiongate**. Most recently, he was an art director leading creative theming teams for the award-winning **Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi** indoor theme park.



Lardner-Burke

Additionally, the group's **Scruffy Dog Global Creative Services** division has hired **Gareth Smy** as a creative lead. Prior to joining the company, Smy, who specializes in intellectual property (IP), worked at the **Lego Group** in Billund, Denmark, where he focused on creative and IP management for **Legoland** resorts worldwide. Prior to the Lego Group, he created attractions at **Merlin Magic Making**, the creative design division of **Merlin Entertainments**.



Smy

Orlando-based **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.**, announced that COO **John Reilly** was leaving the company at the end of March. Reilly, whose 34-year career with SeaWorld included park president positions at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** and **SeaWorld San Diego**, had moved into the role of interim CEO from the position of chief parks operations officer following the early-2018 departure of CEO **Joel Manby**. Reilly reportedly made the decision to depart on his own not long after **Gus Antorcha**, formerly COO of **Carnival Cruise Lines**, was named SeaWorld's new, permanent CEO in February.



Reilly

ITEC Entertainment Corp., based in Orlando and a leading provider of entertainment solutions for parks and attractions worldwide, has hired **Charlie Wissig** as creative director. Wissig has more than three decades of experience in creating, overseeing and implementing new concepts in media for themed entertainment design and development. He joins ITEC from **Dreampark Intl.**, where he served as senior art director overseeing the design of all themed structures and rides for projects throughout Asia. Earlier, he worked within the theme parks division of The Walt Disney Co. as a contracted senior art director. He also designed multiple attractions for **Universal Orlando Resort** properties, including **Islands of Adventure**, **The Wizarding World of Harry Potter** and **Halloween Horror Nights**.



Wissig

Women INFLUENCE

A view from the top...

Violet Cormier and her husband, **Ken Cormier**, built **Funtown Splashtown USA**, Saco, Maine, from the ground up. What started as a drive-in food stand called **Marvel Drive-In** in 1960, now is home to the park with almost 30 amusement rides, multiple waterslides, a children's water play area, a swimming pool and a variety of games and food. Ken Cormier passed away in 2013, but Violet Cormier continues to be a very active part of Funtown Splashtown USA.

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- Member, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA)
- Member, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
- Ken Cormier was named Small Business Person of the Year for Maine in 2001

Loving the ride of her life

SACO, Maine — Violet Cormier speaks from the heart. So when she said, "Seeing people, children, families with their own challenges come into this park and have smiles on their faces, maybe just for a little while, fills me with real joy," it is very easy to recognize her sincerity.

She was 24 years old when she and her husband, Ken Cormier, opened Marvel Drive-In. She will be 84 years old this September.

"That is 60 years," she said. "That is a lifetime."

Make no mistake. Those 60 years had challenges and ample enough blood, sweat and tears to go around. But, Cormier looks at her life now and has no regrets.

"I have had my ups and downs, my goods and bads," she said. "I have felt it all. It is all called life. I wouldn't change any of it for the world."

In 1960 when the food stand opened, Cormier had been married for six years. She had three children. Bill was born in 1953. Gail was born in 1955 and Kevin was born in 1959.

Her husband had served three years in the Korean War and had come home, attended and graduated from college and was working in an accounting firm.

The couple had worked summers at the Palmer House in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Growing up quickly was something Violet Cormier knew all too well. It had been a way of life for her for many years.

Her dad died young, leaving her young mother, Estelle Gilbert Richard, alone to raise five daughters.

"My mother had to go to work," she said. "We lived on a farm. We were workers. We raised chickens and grew

our own vegetables."

Cormier watched as her mother sold those farm fresh products, turning that into a successful and profitable grocery business.

"I watched her start to buy property," Cormier said. "I watched her divide property. I watched her buy and build apartments and town homes."

"I can remember my mother coming home in the evenings and being so tired," she said. "She would come in and just flop back on the bed."

Cormier graduated from high school early. She met her husband-to-be when she was only 12 years old. By the time she was 18 years old, she was married and pregnant with her first child.

It had been Cormier's desire to be a stay-at-home mom. She felt all the early hard work would lead her there.

"I thought I knew everything back then," she said.

But life has those ways of twisting its own path.

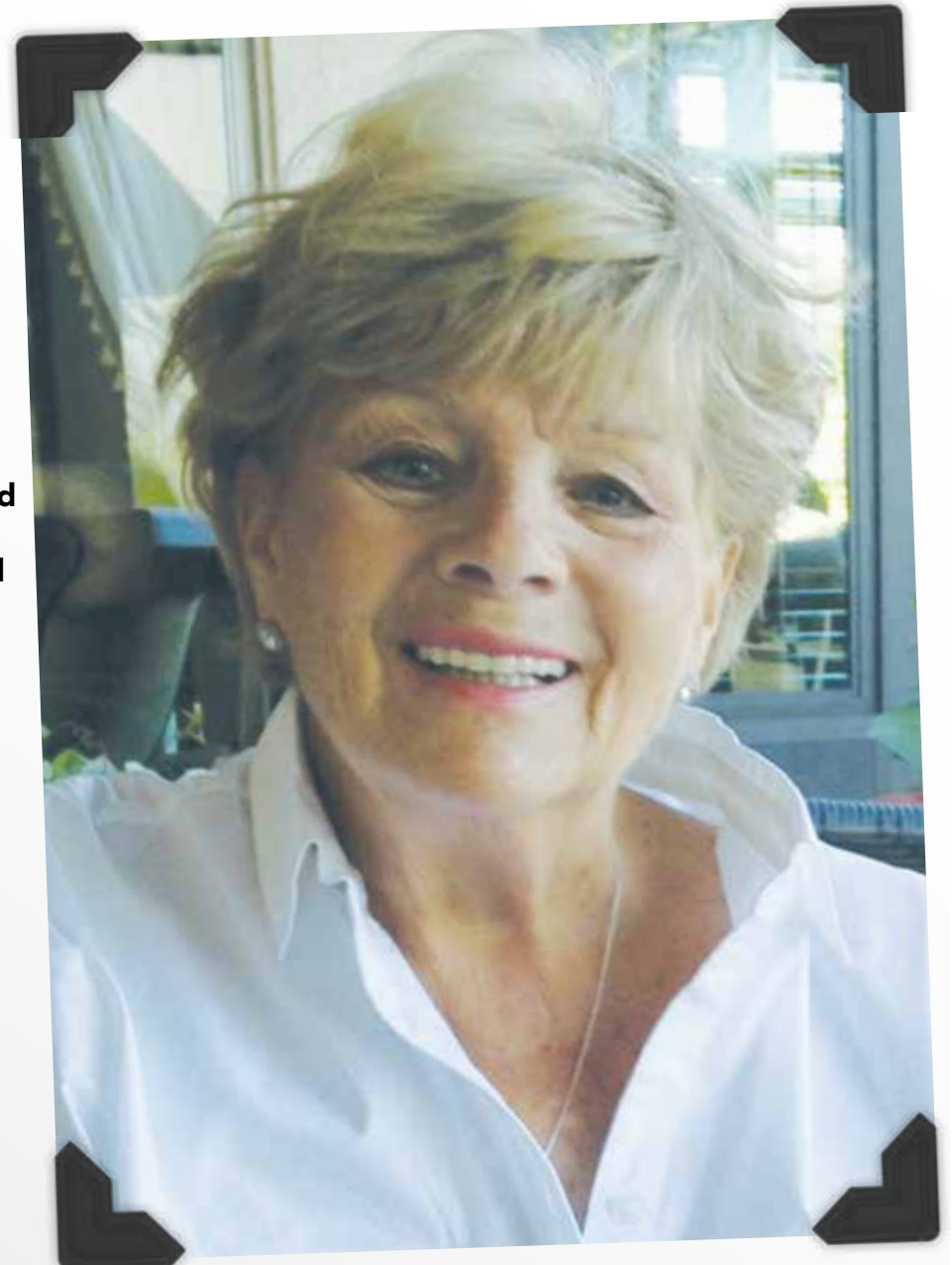
"One day my mother came to me and said, 'If I loan you and Ken \$100,000, do you think the two of you could start up your own business?'"

Yes was the quick answer.

So, she and her husband purchased a parcel of land on Route 1 in Saco. At that time, the area was not very developed. They put their food stand there. Her husband continued with his day job and worked the food stand around those hours. She took her children to the restaurant.

"They always were around me," she said. "I was the boss and could do that. As they got older, I gave them chores to do there."

One of her sisters and her husband,



Muriel and Andre (Ted) Dallaire, purchased land next door to the restaurant. They opened a miniature golf course and go-cart track.

"We put in a bat-away behind the restaurant," Cormier said. "We didn't have a ball picker. We would wait until someone came in and told us we were out of balls. Then, while we were serving food out of the front of the restaurant, we would all run out of the back door and pick up balls."

Cormier said her husband finally gave up his accounting job. They formed a partnership with the Dallaires, added several amusement rides and, all of the sudden, they had an amusement park.

That was in 1967. The park continued to expand over the succeeding years. The Cormiers eventually bought out the Dallaires in the late 1970s.

In the meantime, the Cormiers also were adding three more children to their own line-up. Karen was born in 1964. Candace in 1968 and Kimberly in 1970.

Cormier had wanted to be a stay-at-

home mom. In a way, she achieved that and a whole lot more. The park was their home and still is today. All her children have a role in the park's operations.

Cormier lives in a residence at the park. She now picks and chooses what she wants to do. She makes sure her employees feel appreciated, cooking for them often. She teaches them to be kind, courteous and outgoing to the park guests.

She also goes to the park gates and welcomes her guests. She loves to greet the children groups.

"I love watching the children come off their buses with those smiles on their faces," she said.

Losing her husband was and still is very hard. But the park and family they built together continues.

"They give my life purpose every single day. I think we become what we do. I am right where I am supposed to be."

The fast lane has treated her very well.

—Pam Sherborne

Violet Cormier

Owner
Funtown Splashtown USA
Saco, Maine

Gene Dean inducted into Hall Of Fame

Celebrating NEAAPA's 106th Anniversary, more than 100 attend annual meeting

AT: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — More than 100 persons gathered for the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) 106th Anniversary Education Conference and Annual Meeting March 18-20 at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel here.

The highlight of the event was the induction of **Gene Dean**, owner of **Fiesta Shows/Dean Enterprises**, Seabrook, N.H., into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame during Tuesday evening's dinner meeting.

Accepting on his behalf was Gene's son, **E.J. Dean**, who chronicled his father's history in the industry, which started at Salisbury Beach, Mass., before the family branched out into the carnival business in 1967.

Today, Fiesta Shows is said to be New England's largest carnival with more than 70 rides. Gene, who was unable to attend due to prior commitments, is the first carnival operator to go into the prestigious hall since its formation in 1998.

IAAPA Meeting

Two days of seminars kicked off Monday afternoon with an **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** Regional Meeting.

John Hallenbeck, vice-president and executive director of IAAPA North America, provided an update on the association's activities including membership, educational opportunities, trade shows and the IAAPA foundation.

Erika Scheffer, IAAPA's director of state advocacy, addressed industry issues on state, regional and national levels. Topics included flights over amusement facilities by unauthorized third-party drones, the minimum wage and a school calendar with a post Labor Day start.

An evening reception

E.J. Dean (left) accepts the NEAAPA Hall of Fame plaque honoring his father, Gene, from President Eric Anderson.
COURTESY NEAAPA



capped off the day with more than 50 in attendance.

Keynote Speaker

Tuesday's agenda started with generational expert **Meagan Johnson's** keynote address. She pointed out that for the first time in history businesses now have five generations working side-by-side. Each generation has what she termed as a "signpost" that drives motivation and influences company loyalty.

She asserted, during her interactive and energetic session, that communication between co-workers is more essential than ever to deliver good customer service.

Other seminars rounding out the day included:

- **Cashless Payments Driving Revenue**, moderated by **Anthony Palermo** of **ParkPass** by **Connect&Go**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

- **No Influencers Here: Real Journalism Is Back**, moderated by **Brenda Connell** of **TK Public Relations**, New York, N.Y.

- **Impacts Of A Post Labor Day School Calendar**: speakers **Henry Veilleux**, **Sheehan Phinney Capital Group**, Concord, N.H., and **Brian Gottlob**, **PolEcon Research**, Dover, N.H.

A vendor trade show took place during the afternoon with more than a dozen NEAAPA members displaying their products and services..

Annual Dinner Meeting

A cocktail hour preceded

NEAAPA's Annual Dinner Meeting with more than 100 in attendance for the gala evening.

Secretary **Ed Hodgdon**, marketing and internet technology manager at **Funtown Splashtown USA**, Saco, Maine, welcomed attendees to the dinner followed by opening remarks and a farewell address from outgoing association President **Dorothy Lewis**, **XpressPosts.com**, Danbury, Conn.

A video presentation ran during the dinner hour highlighting the history of NEAAPA as well as clips from many of its current member properties.

As dinner was concluding, Lewis went to the podium and presented the President's Award to Hodgdon, who has served as NEAAPA secretary for eight years. She then invited incoming President **Eric Anderson**, president of **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**, Middlebury, Conn., to the stage and turned the gavel over.

Immediately afterward the annual business meeting was conducted.

Anderson followed the meeting with the presentation of the following awards:

- **Rimas Grazulis**, maintenance manager, **Edaville Family Theme Park**, Carver, Mass. received the **Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award**.

- The **Paragon Award** was presented to **Ron Gustafson**, director of marketing and public relations, **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**, in recognition of the creation of advertising pieces that demonstrated unequalled excellence in graphic promotion.

- **Carson Natali** of **Sodexo** at **Canobie Lake Park**, Salem, N.H. was honored with the **Pinnacle Award** for demonstrating peak perfection in customer service.

The Hall of Fame Committee Chair **Ed Connor** then introduced Gene Dean as the 43rd person to be inducted into the hall.

• neapa.org

\$100 million Phase II announced for OWA

FOLEY, Ala. — **OWA** announced it is continuing to expand with a forthcoming \$100 million investment for Phase II. Construction is slated to begin summer 2019 and will include the Gulf Coast's largest indoor water park, an accompanying 200-room resort hotel with conference space, and a luxury, family-friendly RV Park.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA), the economic development arm of the **Poarch Band of Creek Indians**, has continually invested in OWA over the last three years. With the addition of Phase II, CIEDA's investments will exceed \$350 million+ towards advancing OWA's presence as a year-round Alabama resort destination.

"We have continually invested in OWA's diverse entertainment offerings in an effort to provide visitors and residents with a one-of-a-kind resort experience," said **Cody Williamson**, President/CEO of CIEDA.

Keeping in line with OWA's theme of "big water," which is derived from the Muscogee Creek language, the decision was made to add the Gulf Coast's largest indoor water park in the next phase. With this amenity, the facility plans to allow the beach experience to be available throughout the year.

"We chose to start the next phase with a large indoor waterpark because it allows our guests a year-round opportunity to play in the water," said **Kristin Hellmich**, OWA's Director of Marketing/PR.

Construction will begin this summer for all additions in Phase II. Tentative completion dates currently target the end of 2019 for the RV park opening, with an early 2021 opening for the hotel and indoor water park.

• visitowa.com

Reflections ON FUN



AT: Lottie Minick

A Wild West surprise

My favorite live performance in the early years of **Six Flags Over Texas** in Arlington was the street gunfight show. The lead gunfighter was played by a tall fellow known to me and other park employees as "Vic," and donning a cowboy hat and boots, he really looked the part.

The gunfight actors produced eight-minute shows at 40-minute intervals. As fun as they were for the audience, the stunts were highly physical and the leather chaps and Western costuming often made for tired, overheated "cowboys."

Vic excelled as the star gunslinger. During one late afternoon show that I observed, he was shot early on and had to lie lifeless in the dirt until the conclusion.

A little girl from a church group, drinking from a can of strawberry soda, walked up to Vic and pronounced him dead. Noticing there was no blood, she poured the pinkish-red carbonated beverage into his ear.

The crowd of park patrons applauded and roared at this bit of audience improvisation. Vic remained prone and in character. He was a professional to the end — and certainly to the end of that day, as he continued to perform in his soda-splashed getup.

Vic, sans Western wear, went on to a successful industry marketing career — where fizz and persistence have surely served him well.

Lottie Minick is a 45-year amusement industry veteran and co-owner of Dallas-based Minick Associates, a design firm founded by her late husband, Bob. Her monthly column features behind-the-scenes anecdotes of her own and from those who have worked in the business. Do you have a humorous or unusual industry story? Email lottie@minickassociates.com.

NEAAPA website adds legislative, advocacy links

When NEAAPA's board of directors was working on its strategic plan, it focused on the three words seen in the group's logo: advocacy, information and networking.

When thinking about advocacy, the board realized that this member benefit was not getting as much attention. To that end, members now have easy access to current proposed legislation in their states via neapa.com/pages/legislation-home.

Once there, members can find information on pending legislation in each of the six New England states, including how to contact their local legislators.

Reflecting on 2018, Firestone Financial begins to build momentum for 2019

NEEDHAM, Mass. — With portfolio growth to over \$270 million, 2018 was a successful year for Firestone Financial. The company wrote more than 1,700 loans to over 1,000 different customers.

"We recognized the market need for quicker access to smaller transactions, so we hired 15 new employees and improved our operational efficiencies across all industries," said David Cohen, Firestone Financial's president and CEO. "Our revamped process has allowed us to serve our customers better than ever before."

With more than 50 years of experience in the industry, Firestone Financial continues to grow its portfolio in amusements by providing service and responsiveness. The company's Location-Based Entertainment (LBE) segment demonstrated strong growth in the market.



Cohen



The company partnered to provide up to \$5 million in SBA financing for larger projects at FEC venues such as **Urban Air** and **Altitudes**.

"We've been trusted advisors and financing partners for family entertainment center franchise owners for years by understanding the franchise lending cycle and providing advisory services on a wide range of financial issues," offered Cohen.

Firestone's 25-plus years of experience in the carnival and parks industry aided in refocusing the company's efforts to better serve those customers in 2019.

"We renewed our focus on streamlining our processes, enabling our customers to shop and procure what they need quickly," said Cohen.

Firestone veteran **Sal Cifala** joined the company's carnival and parks team to aid in servicing the increased market demand.

"As the business envi-

ronment becomes more challenging, carnival and parks customers realize again that who they borrow from matters," added Cohen. "Brokers who don't service their loans or other lenders who don't provide ongoing structural options cannot deliver carnival owners the flexibility they need to manage their business. Our biggest focus has always, and will always be, helping our carnivals and parks customers navigate through all their business cycles."

Through Firestone Financial's partnership with Berkshire Bank, the company can deliver a total banking relationship to its customers in 2019, including deposits, insurance, wealth management, and SBA products.

"We are poised to grow, increase our efficiency, and deliver more value to our customers," said Cohen.

"With 2019 underway, we'll continue to sharpen our focus on customers' needs by delivering transparent, quality service to our customers."

•firestonefinancial.com



COURTESY
PORTAVENTURA WORLD

PortAventura World to open first carbon-neutral hotel in June

SALOU, Spain — **PortAventura World's** sixth hotel — Hotel Colorado Creek — will offer four-star accommodations and will have direct access to PortAventura Park. Mirroring the style of the western gold rush, the new 150-room hotel is scheduled to open its doors on June 1.

PortAventura World — one of the first companies to sign the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism for sustainable tourism — has made environmental corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives one of its priorities. Colorado Creek is now the latest addition to its CSR portfolio.

"Colorado Creek will be PortAventura World's first carbon-neutral hotel and in time, the park aims to extend this commitment to other areas of the resort," commented Fernando Aldecoa, general director of PortAventura World. "PortAventura World is continuing to consolidate its commitment to the environment with a responsible and sustainable management model, a cornerstone of the company's ESG policy."

PortAventura continues to strive for 100 percent of the electricity at the resort to be sourced from renewable energy sources that produce zero CO2 emissions, certified by a Guarantee of Origin (GO).

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WE CONTROL THE THRILLS!

2019 WHAT’S NEW GUIDE | INTERNATIONAL

Compiled by Jeffrey Seifert

This is a list of announced and confirmed projects for 2019. Some manufacturers have more projects for this year that have yet to be announced.

Andorra
Grandvalira, Canillo....Màgic Gliss – Weigand Alpine Coaster

Australia
Dreamworld, Coomera....Dreamworld Future Lab — \$2.7 million animal research facility
Funfields, Victoria....Volcano Bay — ProSlide heated wave pool
Gumbaya World, Gumbaya....ProSlide RallyRacer (x3), Twister (x2)
Luna Park, Melbourne....Speedy Beetle — SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster
Luna Park, Sydney....Volaré — wave swinger

Austria
Diesel, Edelschrott....Steirarodl — Weigan Alpine Coaster
Familypark, St. Margarethen....Zeirer Konticki
Wiener Prater, Vienna....Teststrecke — Schwarzkopf Doppel Looping coaster relocated from Dorney Park (2019 only); Mondial Swinger; Saltamonte Jumper; AK Rides dark ride
Venet Bergbahnen, Zams....Venet Bob — Stahl-Hacksteiner-Metall alpine coaster

Bahamas
Perfect Day at CocoCay, Little Stirrup Cay Island....Royal Caribbean private island with Thrill Waterpark including multiple attractions from WhiteWater West

Belgium
Bobbejaanland, Lichtaart....Fury — Gerstlauer Infinity Coaster
Walibi Belgium, Wavre....Fun Pilot — Zierer Force 190; Popcorn Revenge — Alterface/ETF dark ride

Brazil
Mirabilandia, Paulista....Vekoma Giant Inverted Boomerang (relocated from Six Flags Over Georgia); Intamin eight-inversion coaster (relocated from Terra Encantada)
Rio Quente, Goiás....ProSlide FlyingSaucer 45, Tornado 24
Taua Resort, Caete - Minas Gerais....Polin Waterparks Tunnel Body Slide(Run Out), Aquatube-Space Hole(Run Out-Close)+Tunnel Body Slide(Run Out) Combination, multiple kids slides

Brunei
Jerudong Park Playground, Bander Seri Begawan....Fabbri Scary Drop 50; Fabbri Corsair swinging ship

Bulgaria
Alexandria Group Hotel, Aheloy....Polin Waterparks Space Hole-Aquatube+Tunnel Body Slide Combination, Compact Slide, Wide Slide, multiple kids slides
Cybele Waterpark, Mineraini Bani....Polin Waterparks Rafting Slide+Black Hole Combination, Aquatube+Tunnel Body Slide-Space Hole Combination, Wide Slide, multiple kids slides

Cambodia
Angkor Water Park, Phnom Phen....WhiteWater Wave Pool, 4-person Abyss, 1-2-person Boomerango, 4-person Constrictor, FlowRider Double, Lazy River, 1-2-person Super Bowl, FlowRider
Grand Phnom Phen Water Park, Phnom Phen....Polin Waterparks Windigo+2 Pcs Windigo-4 Kulvarlı Combination, Tunnel Freefall+Kamikaze Freefall Combination, Uplooping Rocket Hidrolik, Rocket Freefall Hidrolik, Compact Slide, Aquatube, Wide Slide, Compact Slide, Compact Slide, multiple kids slides

China
Chengdu Wanda City, Dujiangyan....Intamin Blitz Coaster
Chishui Waterpark, Chishui....WhiteWater WaveOz, AquaSpray; ProSlide RocketBlast/Flying Saucer 30 (7 saucers), Double TornadoWave 60, Rally Racer, multiple kidz slides
Chongqing Wanda Theme Park, Shapingba....Intamin Impulse Twist & Twist Coaster
Daqingshan Wildlife Park, Dangtu....Golden Horse family coaster
Dragon Valley Theme Park, Pukou....Vekoma Shockwave Coaster
Evergrande, Hainan....ProSlide HydroMagnetic Rocket, OCR/Kraken Racer, CannonBowl 40, FreeFall (x2), PipeLine with Explosion (x2), PipeLine, SuperLoop with SkyBox (x2), Tornado 28 (x3)
Fantawild, Jingzhou....Vekoma Junior Coaster
Fantawild, Jiangyou....Vekoma Junior Coaster; Beijing Shibolai suspended looping coaster
Fantawild, Zhongmu....Vekoma Family Boomerang
Fantawild Ningbo, Cixi....Vekoma Family Boomerang; Vekoma Top Gun launch coaster
Guangzhouo Wanda Theme Park, Huadu....Dual Dragons — Intamin inverted and sit-down coasters with LSM launch; Intamin enclosed coaster; Intamin spinning coaster
Guizhou Colorful Culture Vientiane Tourist City, Xixiu....Twin Helix powered coaster; Jungle Mouse; multi-inversion roller coaster
Happy Coast Theme Park, Shunde....Family Roller Coaster; Water Roller Coaster
Happy Valley, Beijing....Music Roller Coaster — B&M Hyper Coaster
Happy Valley, Qixia....B&M Wing Coaster; Vekoma Family Suspended Coaster; Intamin multi-launch coaster; Golden Horse mine-train coaster
Happy Valley, Shenzhen....Larson 22-meter Giant Loop
Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong....New Marvel-themed area; Ant-Man and The Wasp: Nano Battle — interactive shooting dark ride
Hot Go Dreamworld, Wanghua....B&M Wing Coaster; Preston & Barbieri Double Race coaster; B&M Hyper Coaster; ProSlide BehemothBowl 40/TornadoWave 60, PT 32 with SkyBox (x2), Tornado24/Tornado24/Behemoth Bowl40
Liangjiang Park, Qilin....Double loop double corkscrew coaster
Lionsgate Entertainment World, Xiangzhou....Mack Rides indoor VR coaster
Ocean Paradise, Lingshui....Intamin multi-inversion coaster; Intamin spinning coaster
Ocean Park, Hong Kong....ProSlide BehemothBowl40/Tornado 60, Mammoth
OCT Nanchang Waterpark, Nanchang....WhiteWater Speed Slide, Freefall Plus, Flatline Loop, 1-2 Person Master Blaster; ProSlide DoubleTornadoWave 60, Tornado 60, multiple kidz slides
OCT Nanjing, Nanjing....ProSlide BehemothBowl 60, FlyingSaucer 45, Mammoth
OCT Shunde, Shunde....Polin Waterparks Uplooping Rocket Hidrolik (Run Out), Body Slide+Kamikaze Freefall(Run Out) Combination, Multisurf (Run Out), Family Rafting Slide, Family Rafting Slide+Big Hole-Surf Safari, multiple kids slides; WhiteWater FusionFortress 17
R and F Ocean Paradise Waterpark, Lingshui....WhiteWater 8 Lane Whizzard, Super Bowl, Speed Slide, Pool Sider, Multilane, Kids' Mini Multi X 2, RainFortress 10, FlowRider Double, 6 Person Python, 6 Person Boomerango, 3 Person Rattler, Champagne Bowl, AquaSpray, AquaTube X 2
Shanghai Dungeon, Shanghai....New Dungeon park (opened late 2018); Ride Engineers Switzerland Drop Tower

Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park, Shanghai....WhiteWater Spinning Rapids ride
Shantou Children's Park, Longhu....Family Roller Coaster — Golden Horse family roller coaster; Golden Horse suspended looping coaster
Shaoxing Jinghu Theme Park, Yuecheng....Dynamic Attractions SFX Coaster
Suzhou Paradise Forest World, Huqiu....Golden Horse Broken Rail (tilt) coaster
Taihu Lake Longemont Paradise, Changxing....Beijing Jihua Motor Coaster and Spinning Coaster; Family Coaster; Beijing Jihua Suspended Looping Coaster
Tongguan Kilm International Cultural and Tourism Center, Changsha....Beautiful Hanan — CAVU Designworks Flying Theatre
Visionland, Dingcheng....Golden Horse suspended looping coaster; Golden Horse Super Spinning Coaster; Beijing Shibaolai Magic Ring roller coaster
Wanda Guangzhou, Guangzhou....WhiteWater Spinning Rapids ride
Wanda Wuxi, Wuxi....WhiteWater Spinning Rapids ride; ProSlide Behemoth Bowl 40, Mammoth, Twister
Window of the World, Kaifu....S&S Power compressed air launch coaster with 10 elements
Wuxi Sunac Land, Binhu....Soaring With Eagle — B&M Wing Coaster; Mack Rides launch coaster (Blue Fire); Zamperla Indoor Coaster
Xianghu Kaiyuan Senbo Resort Park, Hangzhou....WhiteWater 4 Person Manta, 4 Person Open Flume
Xuzhou Paradise, Quanshan....Golden Horse suspended looping coaster
Yingkou Hongyun Waterpark, Yingkou....WhiteWater Giant Aquatube
Yueliangwan Park, Fancheng....Jungle Mouse
Zhanjiang Texas Water World, Zhanjing....WhiteWater 6 Person Python, 6 Person AquaSphere + Manta Fusion

Columbia
Piscilago, Malgar....ProSlide Mammoth

Croatia
Aquacolors Aquapark, Poreç....ProSlide Kidz Zone

Czech Republic
Aqualand Moravia, Pasohlavky....WhiteWater 1-2 Person Constrictor + Master Blaster Fusion

Denmark
Djurs Sommerland, Nimtofte....Tigeren — Intamin 45m Gyro Swing
Fårup Sommerland, Blokhus....Zierer Wave Swinger; Technical Park Apollo Sidecar
Legoland Billund, Billund....Legoland Castle Hotel — themed hotel with 142 guest rooms
Tivoli Friheden, Århus....Ride Engineers Switzerland combination 65-meter viewing tower and freefall ride
Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen....Mælkevejen — Mack Rides powered coaster; Kamelen — Zierer Force Zero

Dominican Republic
Costa Bávaro Resort Spa & Casino, Punta Cana....WhiteWater RainFortress 5

Egypt
Al Ahly, Alexandria....WhiteWater wave pool

England
Alton Towers, Alton....Alton Towers Dungeon — upcharge interactive 45-minute experience with boat ride
Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool....Boulevard Hotel — 120-room oceanfront hotel and conference center
Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington....Room on the Broom — dark ride
Clarence Pier, Portsmouth....Mad Mouse — SBF Visa Cyclon coaster; SBF Visa compact spinning coaster
Dreamland, Margate....Zamperla multi-ride package including Air Race, Endeavor, Freefall Tower, Samba Tower, Magic Bikes, Midi Discovery, Twister Coaster
Fantasy Island, Ingoldmells....Ice Mountain — Reverchon spinning mouse
Haven Seashore, Great Yarmouth....WhiteWater AquaPlay 750, Giant AquaTube, Constrictor, Kids' Ramp Slide, AquaSpray
Legoland Windsor, Windsor....Vekoma Madhouse
Pettitts Animal Adventure Park, Reedham....Crazy Caterpillar — Güven Lunapark Brucomela (Wacky Worm)
Rhyl Aquatic Centre, Rhyl....Polin Waterparks Wave Slide, Multislide (Run Out), Aquatube (Run Out), kids Mega-Slide Paradise
Twitchen House Holiday Park, Woolacombe....Polin Waterparks Tunnel Body Slide (Run Out), Aquatube (Run Out)

Finland
Linnanmäki, Helsinki....Taiga — Intamin Blitz Coaster
PowerLand, Kauhava....Fabbri Coaster Power Mouse

France
Babyland-Amiland, Saint-Pierre-du-Perray,....Jet — Schwarzkopf Jet Star from French fair circuit
Camping L'Ocean, L'Ocean....Polin Waterparks Aquatube, Multi Slide, Tunnel Freefall, Compact Slide
Camping Le California, Sant Jean de Monts....Polin Waterparks Aquatube+Compact Slide (Run Out)
Camping Resort El Escoria, L'Escorial....Polin Waterparks Windigo, Space Hole+Tunnel Body Slide, Space Hole+Tunnel Body Slide, 2 Pcs Aquatube, Wide Slide, Snake Slide
Dennlys Parc, Dennebroeucq....Preston & Barbieri Harakiri Slide
Didi'Land, Morsbronn-les-Bains....Ferris Wheel
Fraispertius City, Jeanménil....Zierer Jet Ski
Le Pal, Dompierre Sur Besbre....Les Ailes du Yukon — Zamperla Winstarz
Le Parc du Petit Prince, Ungersheim....Pierre de Tonnerre — Reverchon junior spinning coaster
Lugik Parc, Les Estables....Luge 4 Saisons — Weigand Alpine Coaster
Parc Ange Michel, Saint Martin de Landelles....Technical Parc Apollo Sidecar
Parc Astérix, Pailly....Attention Menhir! — CL Corporation 4D motion cinema
Parc Bagatelle, Merlimont....Baggy Forest — new themed area with multiple family attractions
Parc des Combes, Le Creusot....Rivers of the West — Technical Park log flume; Technical Park Ferris wheel
Parc du Bocasse, Bocasse....Preston & Barbieri mini coaster
Parc Saint Paul, Saint-Paul....Dino Disk'O — Zamperla Disk'O Coaster
Parc Spirou Provence, Montoux....Nid du Marsupilami — Ride Engineers Switzerland Roller Ball coaster; Preston & Barbieri spinning cars coaster; Funtime freefall tower
Puy du Fou, Les Epesses....La Premiere Royaume — new show
Walibi Rhône-Alpes, Les Avenières....Mystic — Gerstlauer Infinity Coaster
Wave Island Theme Park, Montoux....Polin Waterparks Tunnel Freefall (Run Out)

2019 WHAT’S NEW GUIDE | INTERNATIONAL

Germany
Bavaria Filmstadt, Grünwald....Filmstadt Atelier — exhibit celebrating 100 years of filmmaking
Belantis, Leipzig....Dark walkthrough in pyramid that houses flume ride
Erlebnisfelsen Pottenstein, Pottesntein....Weigand Sport Coaster
Erlebnispark Tripsdrill, Cleebronn....Children’s waterplay structure
Europa-Park, Rust....Mission Astronaut — Mack Rides 360-degree cinema
Fort Fun Abenteuerland, Wasserfall....Thunderbirds — Zamperla Air Race 8.2
Freizeit-Land Geiselwind, Geiselwind....Drochen Höhle — Zierer Hell Diver enclosed coaster
Freizeitpark Plohn, Lengenfeld....Dynamite — Mack Rides custom Big Dipper
Hansa Park, Sierksdorf....Highlander — Funtime freefall tower
Heide Park, Soltau....Colossos - Kampf der Giganten — Retracking and retheming of former Colossus wooden coaster
inMotion Park, Steinberg am See....40-meter wooden ball climbing structure with 40-meter Wiegand slide
Karls Erlebnis-Dorf Koserow, Koserow....Sunkid-Heege cable tower
Karls Erlebnis-Dorf Rövershagen, Rövershagen....Erdbeer Raupenbahn — Big Apple-style coaster; SBF Visa Freefall Tower
Karls Erlebnis-Dorf Zirkow, Zirkow....Sunkid-Heege Skydive
Kuchelbauers Bierwelt, Abensberg....Karussellbau-Heinz bier carousel (rotating bar)
Lugoland Deutschland, Günzburg....Mettaltbau Emmein Fire Rescu; Zamperla Samba Tower
Movie Park Germany, Bottrop....Zamperla Convoy
Potts Park, Minden....Säbelsaurus — Sunkid-Heege Butterfly coaster
Rasti Land, Salzhemmendorf....Holta Di Polta — SBF Visa oval coaster
Rulantica, Rust....New themed indoor water park resort at Europa-Park. 25 water attractions
Schloß Beck Freizeitpark, Bottrop....Karussellbau-Heinz carousel
Schwaben Park, Kaisersbach....Wilde Hilde — Ride Engineers Switzerland Roller Ball coaster (opened Oct 2018)
Serengeti Park, Hohenhagen....Safari Blitz — Stein launched spinning coaster relocated from Weiner Prater
Skyline Park, Bad Wörishofen....Huss Breakdance; ghost ride
Tropical Islands Water Park, Brandenburg....Polin Waterparks multi-level waterplay structure
Wheel of Munich, Munich....Maurer Rides / Bussink R80XL observation wheel
Wild- & Freizeitpark Klotten, Klotten....Children’s playground
Greece
Costa Navarino, Navarino Dunes....ProSlide Twister 3
Indonesia
Atlantis Land, Surabaya....Dark Coaster — Vekoma junior coaster
Delta Sidoarjo Fantasy, Surabaya....Spinning Wild Mouse coaster
Taman Legenda, East Jakarta....Meteor Coaster — Top Fun Typhoon coaster
Trans Studio Action Zone, East Jakarta....Vekoma Boomerang relocated from Knott’s Berry Farm; Caropro Batflyer relocated from Hamanako Pal Pal; Maurer Rides spinning coaster relocated from Dixie Landin’
Trans Studio Mini, Malang....Crazy Taxi Coaster — Vekoma junior coaster
Trans Studio Mini, Tasikmalaya....Vekoma Junior Coaster (indoor)
Transmart Jambi, Jambi....Vekoma Junior Coaster
Iraq
Aquarin Waterpark, Zakho....Polin Waterparks Aquatube+Space Hole, Black Hole+Rafting Slide, Multi Slide,Kamikaze, Freefall, Black Hole, Tunnel Freefall, Wide Slide, multiple kids slides
Ireland
Tayto Park, Ashbourne....Zierer Coaster
Israel
Harbaji Sport Center, Nazareth....Polin Waterparks Uplooping Rocket Hidrolik, Kamikaze, Freefall, Tunnel Freefall, 2 Pcs Windigo, Looping Rocket
Italy
Etnaland, Belpasso....ProSlide Rally KrakenRacer
Fiabilandia, Rimini....Steel coaster
FICO World Eataly, Bologna....New FEC with multiple Zamperla rides including small coaster
Gardaland, Milan....Forest Incantata — walk through attraction; Magic Elements theater show
Mirabilandia, Savio....Desmo Race — Maurer Rides spike coaster
Mythra Pools, Castiglione delle Stiviere....Polin Waterparks Aquatube+Compact Slide (Run Out)
Osteria Ai Pioppi, Treviso....Catapulta — in-house shuttle coaster
Rainbow Magicland, Valmonte....Tonga themed area with Nui Lua water attraction; kids driving school
Japan
Nagashima Spa Land, Nagashima....Hakugei — Rocky Mountain Construction and S&S ~ Sansei conversion of White Cyclone wooden coaster
Tokyo DisneySea, Tokyo....Soaring: Fantastic Flight
Malaysia
20th Century Fox World, Genting Highlands....Alien vs Predator — Dynamic Attractions SFX Coaster; Sons of Anarchy — Dynamic Attractions duel power coaster; Wings Over Rio — Setpoint suspended coaster
Amverton Cove Golf & Island Resort, Selangor....Polin Waterparks Multislide, Black Hole, Rafting Slide, Wide Slide, Kamikaze Freefall, Tunnel Freefall, multiple kids slides
Kota Bharu Waterpark, Kelantan....ProSlide RocketBlast
Movie Animation Park Studios, Ipoh....Intamin 10 inversion coaster
Trans Studio Bali, Denpasar....Vekoma Boomerang; Vekoma Junior Coaster; Caripro Batflyer coaster
Netherlands
Attractiepark Slagharen, Slagharen....Black Hills Ranger Path — ropes course
Boer Slides & Disco, Tuitjenhorn....Polin Waterparks Wide Slide, Aquatube, Compact Slide
Dolfinarium Park, Hardewijk....Polin Waterparks Tunnel Freefall, Aquatube,Rafting Slide
Efteling, Kaatscheuvel....Update of dark ride Carnival Festival
Speelpark Oud Valkeveen, Naarden....Drakenbaan — Zamperla coaster
Walibi Holland, Biddinghuizen....Untamed — RMC IBox hybrid conversion of Robin Hood coaster
Palestine
Bananaland Water Park, Jericho....Polin Waterparks Aquatube, Wide Slide, Body Slide, Multislide, multiple kids slides
Philippines
Star City, Pasay....SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster
Anjo World, Minglanilla....Pharoah — Golden Horse spinning coaster

Poland
Legendia Slaskie Wesole Miasteczko, Chorzów....Water Theater — evening show with water sprays, projections, lighting, sound, video mapping
Majaland Kownaty, Torzym....Great Coasters International wooden coaster
Portugal
Aqualand Algarve Waterpark, Alcantarihala....Polin Waterparks King Cobra Head+Racer Slide Combination
Slide & Splash Waterslide Park, Lagoa....Polin Waterparks Black Hole, Aquatube+Body Slide Combination, Aquatube+Body Slide Combination, Body Slide, Aquatube, Flying Saw+Rafting Slide Combination, 7 Pcs Body Slide, Multislide (x2)
Perque Aquatica Amarante, Amarante....Polin Waterparks Black Hole+Rafting Slide+Turbolance, Tunnel Freefall
Qatar
Adventure Island, Doha....New theme park with multiple attractions including Dragonfire — Premier Rides launch coaster
Romania
Superland, Brasov Municipiul....Karussellbau-Heinz Mini Star Flyer and Multi-Go-Round
Russia
Attrapark, Moscow....Vekoma Boomerang; Vekoma Junior Coaster
Aqua Park Luzhniki, Moscow....WhiteWater Slideboarding, Pool Sider, 1-2 Person Super Bowl + Constrictor Fusion, Giant AquaTube, AquaTube X 2, AquaPlay 200, Wave Pool, AquaSphere, Pool Sider, AquaLoop
Dream Island, Moscow....New park with multiple attractions including Intamin indoor coaster
Olginka Waterpark, Olginka....WhiteWater AquaDrop, Colorado Drop
South Korea
Busan L-City Water Park, Busan....Polin Waterparks 6 Pcs Black Hole+4 Pcs Navigatour Combination, Aquatube, Tunnel Freefall, Aquatube, Multislide
Gyeongnam Mason Robotland, Masanhappo-gu....Raid Train — Zamperla Thunderbolt; Forest Trains — family coaster
Ocean World, Hongcheon....ProSlide FlyingSaucer 45
Spain
Port Aventura, Salou....Street Mission — Sally interactive dark ride with Sesame Street theming; ETF ride system
Puy du Fou España, Toledo....New show park presenting history of Spain and Toledo through shows
Saudi Arabia
Dana Bay, Dummam....ProSlide CannonBowl 40, KrakenRacer (x4), PipeLine (x2), Tornado 45, Twister (x2)
Sweden
Furuvik, Gävle....Radiobilarnar — Bumper cars
Gröna Lund, Stockholm....Snake — Funtime Chaos Pendle
Kolmården, Norrköping....Mini Hopp — Freefall ride
Skara Sommarland, Axvall....ProSlide FyingSaucer 30
Switzerland
Bosco Gurin, Bosco/Gurin....Slittovia — Techfun Funcoaster (alpine coaster)
Conny Land, Lipperswil....Ride Engineers Switzerland 65-meter Drop Tower
Tajikistan
Varzob Lake Water Park, Dusanbe....Polin Waterparks Body Slide, Space Shuttle+Black Hole+Flying Boats Combination, Black Hole+Flying Boats Combination, Rafting Slide+Flying Boats Combination, Turbolance+Rafting Slide Combination, Black Hole+Space Boat Combination, 2 Pcs Aquatube+Multislide Combination, 2 Pcs Aquatube, Kamikaze Freefall, Looping Rocket Hydraulics, Family Rafting Slide+Black Hole+Magicone Combination, 2 Pcs Family Rafting Slide+Big Hole Combination, multiple kids slides
Tanzania
Azam Waterpark, Dar es Salaam....WhiteWater AquaTube, FlowRider Double, Kids’ Mini Body Slide, Kids’ Mini Multi-Lane, Open & Enclosed, Pool Sider, Kids’ Ramp Slide, Wave River, RainFortress 5
Trinidad and Tobago
Chaguaramas Waterpark, Chaguaramas....ProSlide RideHouse 250, multiple Kidz slides
Trinidad Waterpark, Chaguaramas....WhiteWater Constrictor, Boomerango, Rattler, Space Bowl, 6 Lane Mat Racer
Tunisia
El Shems Holiday Village, Monastir....Polin Waterparks Aquatube, Body Slide, Kamikaze, Freefall, Black Hole, Rafting Slide, Aquatube+Space Hole; multiple kids slides
Vincci Helios Beach, Midun....Polin Waterparks Aquatube, Aquatube+Kamikaze, Freefall, Multislide, Tunnel Freefall, Body Slide
Turkey
Luna Park, Sincan....Pinfari Zyklon Z40
Royal Wings Hotel, Antalya....Polin Waterparks King Cobra Head+Racer Slide Combination, Black Hole+Sphere+Flying Boats, Paradise kids slide
Tuzia Marina Aquapark, Istanbul....Polin Waterparks Aquatube, Tunnel Freefall, Kamikaze, Freefall, Body Slide, 2 Pcs Windigo, Rafting Slide, Flying Boats+Rafting Slide+Black Hole Combination, Black Hole+Turbolance
Wonderland Eurasia, Ankara....New park with multiple attractions including 16 roller coasters. Formerly Ankapark, opening delayed from 2017
Ukraine
Ocean Mall, Kiev....New FEC with Vekoma Junior Coaster
United Arab Emirates
Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi....Mission Ferrari — Dynamic Attractions SFX coaster
Global Village, Dubai....Fabbri Voyager
Vietnam
Boa Son Paradise Park, Hoai Duc....Vekoma Family Boomerang
Geyser Gulch, Lantau Island....ProSlide CannonBowl 40, FreeFall, FreeFall with SkyBox (x2), KrakenRacer (x8), PipeLine (x2), RideHouse 600, SuperLoop with Skybox (x2), Tornado 18 (x3), Tornado 24, Tornado 60, Twister (x2)
Sun World Danang Wonders, Đà Nang....Highway Boat — Intamin inverted coaster with elevator lift
Sun World Hon Thom, Phú Quoc....WhiteWater AquaSpray, Kids’ AquaSphere, Kids’ Boomerango, 6 Person Constrictor + Python Fusion, 6 Person Boomerango, 1-2 Person Open Flume, 1-2 Person Master Blaster, Wave River, FlowRider Double, Wave Pool, RainFortress 5
Vinpearl Premium Phu Quoc, Phú Quoc....Polin Waterparks King Cobra, Racer+Black Hole+Space Boat, Family Rafting Slide, 2 Pcs Black Hole, 2 Pcs Aquatube, Tsunami, Flying Boats+Turbolance, 2 Pcs Looping Rocket, Rocket, multiple kids slides

2019 WHAT’S NEW GUIDE | NORTH AMERICA

Compiled by Jeffrey Seifert

This is a list of announced and confirmed projects for 2019. Some manufacturers have more projects for this year that have yet to be announced.

CANADA
Alberta
Calaway Park, Calgary....Bumble Blast — Gosetto Family Spinning Coaster
Holiday Inn Lethbridge, Lethbridge....Polin Waterparks Aquatube
British Columbia
Cultus Adventure Park, Cultus Lake....Larson International Super Shot Drop Tower
Minoru Centre for Active Living, Richmond....New aquatic center with multiple pools; ProSlide Kids ProRacer (x2), Kidz Twister
Playland at the PNE, Vancouver....Zamperla Flying Carousel 64
Valemount Comfort Inn, Valemount....Polin Waterparks Aquatube
Nova Scotia
Holiday Inn Express Dartmouth, Dartmouth....WhiteWater AquaPlay 150
Ontario
Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan....Yukon Striker — B&M Dive Coaster
Marineland, Niagara Falls....ProSlide KidZ MiniRiver (x2), Kidz ProRacer (x6), Kidz Twister (x2)
Playdium, Brampton....Ropes Course International 25-foot Sky Trail with Sky Raul and 10 interactive elements
Québec
Aquaclub la Source, Mont Tremblant....Proslide RideHouse
La Ronde, Montreal....Chaos — Larson International Fireball
Méga Parc, Quebec City....Télégraphe — Extreme Engineering Cloud Coaster; Zenith — Larson International Hubless Wheel; Cortex — Triotech interactive theater; Hélix — SBF teacup-style ride; Piston — SBF Drop Tower; Express — SBF train; Visa pendulum ride; RDC bumper cars; Zamperla Speedway
Microtel, Mont Tremblant....WhiteWater Pool Sider
Pays des Merveilles, Sainte-Adèle....La Grande Montagne Russe — E&F Miler family coaster (relocated from Fort Jefferson Fun Park)
Safari AquaParc, Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle....ProSlide FreeFall with with Skybox, Twister (x2); WOW Wave Ball
Villages Valcartier, Quebec City....WhiteWater six-person Bubba Tub, Master Blaster, AquaDrop, six-person Boomerango
Saskatchewan
Radison Hotel, Saskatoon....WhiteWater Pool Sider
GUATEMALA
Mundo Petapa, Guatemala City....Relámpago (Lightning) — Zamperla Thunderbolt coaster
San Martín Zapotitlán, Retalhuleu....Vekoma junior coaster (relocated from Planeta Primma)
MEXICO
Distrito Federal
Six Flags México, Mexico City....DC Superfriends and Bugs Bunny Boomtown kids areas with 13-ride package
Morelos
Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec, Oaxtepec....King Cobra — Polin Waterparks King Cobra
Quintana Roo
Vidanta, Riviera Maya....WhiteWater AquaSpray, RainFortress 3, Kids' Mini Body Slide, Freefall
UNITED STATES
Alabama
Alabama Splash Adventure, Bessemer....Galleon swinging ship; ProSlide Free-Fall and Twister water slides
The Park at OWA, Foley....Mystic Manor — Sally Corp. interactive dark ride
Arizona
Funtasticks Tucson, Tucson....Zamperla Cozmo Jet
Great Wolf Lodge Arizona, Salt River....New water park resort, slide supplier not yet announced
Rancho Sahuarito, Sahuarito....WhiteWater AquaTube, Pool Sider, Cyclone
Arkansas
Parrot Island Waterpark, Fort Smith....FlowRider double
California
Belmont Park, San Diego....Ice-cream-themed Larson Tilt-A-Whirl, Zero Gravity — Moser Rides
Big Bear Snow Play, Big Bear Lake....Ropes Course International two-level Sky Trail aerial attraction with curved Sky Rail
California's Great America, Santa Clara....Baynum Painting repainting of Drop Zone drop tower
Disneyland Resort, Anaheim....Star Wars Galaxy's Edge — New land with multiple attractions including Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance
Hurricane Harbor Concord, Concord....Carribean Cove — kid's waterplay area
Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park....Calico River Rapids — retheming and addition of animatronics to existing rapids ride
Legoland California, Carlsbad....LEGO Movie 2 Experience — Soundstage featuring Lego models from Lego Movie 2: The Second Part
Mulligan's Family Fun Center, Palmdale....R&R Creative thematic renovation
Pier 39, San Francisco....The Flyer — Triotech Flying Theater
Raging Waters, San Dimas....R&R Creative thematic renovation

Raging Waters, San Jose....R&R Creative thematic renovation
Ravine Waterpark, Paso Robles....ProSlide Twister
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz....Crazy Surf
SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego....Tidal Twister — Skyline Attractions Skywarp Horizon
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo....Batman the Ride — S&S Worldwide 4D Free Spin coaster
Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia....West Coaster Racers — Premier Rides multi-launch steel racing coaster
Universal Studios Hollywood, Hollywood....Dark Arts at Hogwarts Castles — Sound and projection mapping night time show
Colorado
Elitch Gardens, Denver....Meow Wolf's Kaleidoscope — Immersive, interactive artist-driven dark ride experience
Glenwood Caverns, Glenwood Springs....new Lietner-Poma aerial tram to replace existing tram
Hyland Hills Waterworld, Hyland Hills....Lost River of the Pharaohs — R&R Creative special effects and video projections
Lakeside Amusement Park, Denver....Pinfari Zyklon 64 (relocated from Fun Plex)
Connecticut
Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury....Bouncing Buggies — Dune-buggy-themed Zamperla Jump Around
Florida
Aquatica Orlando, Orlando....KareKare Curl — ProSlide TornadoWave60
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Tampa....Tigris — Premier Rides Sky Rocket II; Baynum Painting repainting of Kumba
Daytona Lagoon, Daytona Beach....Kraken's Revenge — Arihant racing slide; Shaka Half-pipe — Arihant halfpipe slide; Virtual Rabbids: The Big Ride — Mega arcade game
Disney's Hollywood Studios, Orlando....Star Wars Galaxy's Edge — New land with multiple attractions including Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance; Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run
Esplanade on Palmer Ranch, Sarasota....WhiteWater AquaPlay 150
Give Kids the World Village, Kissimmee....Kelly's Sunny Swing — Zamperla wheelchair-accessible Happy Swing
Island H2O Live! Waterpark, Kissimmee....New water park with ADG wave pool, river; WhiteWater Blasterango, Constrictor+Rattler Fusion, SuperBowl 30, AquaDrop, Flatline Loop, Boomerango, family raft ride, AquaPlay RainFortress 5; kids slides, Vantage system
Legoland Florida Resort, Winter Haven....Lego Movie World Expansion with Masters of Flight — Brogent Technologies simulator; Unikitty's Disco Drop — Zierer drop tower; Battle of Bricksburg — Mack Rides waterbattle; Baynum Painting recoating of Joker Soaker waterplay structure
Nocatee Splash Park, Point Verda Beach....ProSlide RideHouse 300
Tidal Cove Water Park, Aventura....New water park with WhiteWater West Master Blaster, Constrictor, Bommerango, mat racing Whizzard, Aqua Drop body slides, FlowRider
Twin Creeks Development, St. Augustine....Crystal Lagoons 14-acre lagoon; White-Water Kids' Mini Body Slide, AquaTube, Pool Sider, Ramp Slide
Universal's Island of Adventure, Orlando....Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure — Intamin multi-launch coaster; Dark Arts at Hogwarts Castles — Sound and projection mapping night time show
Westlake Amenities Center, Palm Beach....WhiteWater Pool Sider
ZooTampa, Tampa....WhiteWater Shoot the Chute
Georgia
Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell....Pandemonium — Zamperla Giant Discovery; repainting of Georgia Scorchers
Wild Adventures, Valdosta....Three-acre expansion with Swampwater Snake — Zamperla Mini Mouse (reinstallation of Fiesta Express that was disassembled in 2011)
Hawaii
Wet 'n' Wild Hawaii, Kapolei....Baynum Painting recoating of O-Hana Highway waterslide
Illinois
Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm, Homer Glen....Metallbau Emmeln Tractor Ride
Grady's Family Fun Park, Bloomington....Orient Express — Wisdom Rides Orient Express coaster
Santa's Village Amusement Park, Dundee....Santa Springs — two-story, interactive water play structure
Six Flags Great America, Gurnee....Maxx Force — S&S Worldwide air-launched coaster
Indiana
Holiday World, Santa Claus....Santa's Merry Marketplace — \$5 million rebuild of Kris Kringle Café; The Voyage — 720 feet of track replacement; PTCI overhaul of Voyage and Legend trains
Splashin's Safari, Santa Claus....ProSlide PipeLine
Iowa
Adventureland, Altoona....Phoenix — Maurer Rides spinning coaster
Arnolds Park, Arnolds Park....Wild Mouse — Allan Herschell Mad Mouse relocated from Joyland, Texas
Guttenberg Municipal Swimming Pool, Guttenberg....WhiteWater Pool Sider
Kentucky
Kentucky Kingdom, Louisville....Kentucky Flyer — Gravitykraft wooden out and back coaster
Six Flags America, Upper Marlboro....Firebird Coaster — conversion of existing B&M Apocalypse into floorless coaster; PTCI overhaul of Roar and Wild One trains
Massachusetts
Edaville Family Theme Park, Carver....Kersplash — E&F Miler water coaster relocated from

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Washington State Fair
Six Flags New England, Agawam....Cyborg — Indoor Chance Freestyle;
Michigan
CJ Barrymore's FEC, Clinton Township....Spinning Coaster — SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster; 110-foot Lamberink wheel; Soaring Eagle drop tower
Minnesota
Spring Lake Park, North Mankato....WhiteWater six-person Bubba Tub, Master Blaster, AquaDrop, six-person Boomerango
Missouri
Branson Coaster, Branson....Buzz-Saw — ARM Vertigo
Silver Dollar City, Branson....The Year of Shows and Festivals — Pumpkin Nights glowing pumpkins festival; Expanded Christmas lighting, multiple seasonal shows

Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka....Supergirl — Zamperla Endeavor
WonderWorks, Branson....Ropes Course International three Clip 'n Climb climbing walls
Worlds of Fun, Kansas City....Grand Carnivale parade
Nevada
Area15, Las Vegas....Immersive and interactive art exhibit
The Linq, Las Vegas....Kind Heaven — simulated journey to highly-themed night club-style locales
Wild Island Waterpark, Sparks....ProSlide FlyingSaucer 30
New Hampshire
Santa's Village, Jefferson....WhiteWater Kids' Mini Multi Lane, Pool Sider, Kids' Ramp Slide, AquaTube
New Jersey
Casino Pier, Seaside Heights....Centrifuge — indoor Ely Bridge Scrambler; Mermaid Parade — Zamperla Polo Nord (mini flume); Elephant Express — Zamperla Mini Jet; Crazy Cabs — SF Visa Mini Break Dance
Clementon Park, Clementon....Wisdom Rides Dragon Coaster; Pirate Ship, Ely Bridge Scrambler, Sellner/Larson Tilt-A-Whirl; PTCI overhaul of HellCat coaster trains
Dreamworks Water Park, East Rutherford....ProSlide HydroMagnetic, BehemothBowl 4, CanonBowl40, FreeFall with SkyBox (x2), MultiBump, Pipeline, Pipeline with Explosion, ProBowl30 (x2), SuperLoop with SkyBox, Tornado 24, Tornado 60, Twister (x4), RideHouse 500, multiple Kidz slides
Jenkinson's Boardwalk, Point Pleasant Beach....Tidal Wave — SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster
Morey's Piers, Wildwood....Runaway Tram — Zierer Flying Eagle coaster
Nickelodeon Universe Theme Park, East Rutherford....New park with multiple rides including Shredder — Gerstlauer spinning coasters; TMNT Shellraiser — Gerstlauer launched Euro-Fighter; Sandy's Blasting Bronco — Intamin launch coaster; Slime Streak — Chance rides coaster; Intamin Surf Rider coaster; SkyTrail Explorer ropes course; multiple Zamperla rides including Air Race, Flying Tigers
Playland's Castaway Cove, Ocean City....Technical Park Squadron 33; Dartron Super Slide; S&S Worldwide Double Shot
Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson....Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth — Zamperla Giga Discovery; Baynum Painting repainting of historic Carousel panels
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Jackson....Calypso Springs activity pool — beach-style-entry pool
Storybook Land, Egg Harbor Township....Cinderoller Coaster — SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster
New Mexico
Artesia Aquatic Center, Artesia....WhiteWater AquaSpray, AquaPlay 150, AquaTube, Freefall, Pool Sider
Bisti Bay Water Park, Farmington....New dinosaur-themed water park with lazy river, lap pool twin water slides and interactive waterplay area
Cliff's Amusement Park, Albuquerque....The Downdraft — Battech/Dartron Downdraft
Roswell Natatorium, Roswell....WhiteWater Freefall, Pool Sider
Western Playland, Sunland....Loco 360 — SBF Visa Mini Dance Party 360
New York
Fantasy Island, Grand Island....Dragon's Flight — Wisdom Rides Dragon Wagon
Fantasy Island Amusement Park, Long Beach....Zamperla Sky Tower
Kartrite Water Park Hotel, Thompson....New indoor water park with ProSlide CannonBowl 40, FlyingSaucer30, Duelling RallyRacer, RideHouse 200, TornadoWave 60
Luna Park, Brooklyn....Zamperla Tower Air Race, Zamperla NebulaZ
Seabreeze, Rochester....ProSlide Kidz Zone
Six Flags Darien Lake, Darien Center....SkyScreamer — RE/Funtime StarFlyer
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Lake George....Transformation of existing water park with expansion and Shipwreck Cove waterplay area
Splish Splash, Calverton....Baynum Painting recoating of Bootlegger's Run hydromagnetic waterslide
The Great Escape, Lake George....Bucket Blasters — Zamperla WaterMania
North Carolina
Carowinds, Charlotte....Copperhead Strike — Mack Rides custom launch coaster
Wet 'n' Wild Emerald Pointe, Greensboro....Baynum Painting recoating of Half Pipe
Ohio
Cedar Point, Sandusky.... Forbidden Frontier experiential attraction, PTCI overhaul of Blue Streak coaster trains
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Columbus....Baynum Painting repainting of Sea Dragon wooden coaster
Kings Island, Kings Mills....Kings Mills Antique Autos — Gould antique car ride; refurbishment of front fountains are with new fountain show; Grand Carnivale parade; Baynum

Painting repainting of Eiffel Tower
Otherworld, Columbus....Immersive and interactive art exhibit
Westerville Recreation Center, Westerville....WhiteWater AquaPlay 150
Oklahoma
7 Clans First Council Casino Hotel, Newkirk....Indoor water park with multiple slides, lazy river
Frontier City, Oklahoma City....Frankie's Mine — Zamperla family gravity coaster; Timber Town revamped kids' area with Zamperla Jump Around 6
Pennsylvania
Dorney Park, Allentown....Grand Carnivale parade; PTCI overhaul of coaster trains
Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster....Cartoon Network Hotel — themed family resort hotel (former Continental Inn)
Hersheypark, Hershey....Reese's Cupfusion — Sally Corp. reworking of former Reese's Xtreme Cup Challenge dark ride
Kennywood, West Mifflin....Steel Curtain — S&S Worldwide custom steel coaster
Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg....Tumbling Timbers — SBF Visa Mini Break Dance
Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia....Ropes Course International two-level Sky Trail aerial attraction with curved Sky Rail, Sky Tykes with curved Sky Rail
Waldameer Park, Erie....Chaos — Zamperla Discovery 360
South Carolina
Carolina Pines RV Resort, Myrtle Beach....WhiteWater RainFortress 4
Whirlin' Waters Adventure Park, Charleston....Whitewater three-person AquaSphere + Constrictor + Rattler Fusion, three-person Boomerango
Tennessee
Dollywood, Pigeon Forge....Wildwood Grove —new themed area with six new rides including Dragon Flier — Vekoma family suspended coaster; Larson Flying Scooters; Metallbau Emmeln Pony Trek; Zamperla Galeon, Jump Around, Samba Tower
Sound Waves Water Park, Nashville....New indoor and outdoor water park with FlowRider, activity pool, lazy river, childrens' pool, adults-only pool; ProSlide FreeFall with SkyBox, Octopus Racer, SuperLoop with SkyBox
Texas
Aquatica, San Antonio....Ihu's Breakaway Falls — ProSlide Twister with Skybox (x2), Twister
Downtown Aquarium, HoustonBaynum Painting repainting of Lighthouse Dive drop tower
Epic Waters, Grand Prairie....WhiteWater outdoor wave pool
Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, Galveston Island....Baynum Painting repainting of Iron Shark
Grand Texas, New Caney....Gator Bayou Adventure Park and Big Rivers water park scheduled to open spring 2019
Joyland Amusement Park, Lubbock....Sand Storm — Top Fun Blizzard coaster purchased from Louisiana showman
Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah....Baynum Painting repainting of giant wheel; PTCI overhaul of Boardwalk Bullet coaster trains
Legoland Discovery Center, San Antonio....Zamperla Magic Bikes
Schlittebahn Waterpark Galveston, Galveston Island....Infinity Racers — two new enclosed body slides
SeaWorld San Antonio, San Antonio....Turtle Reef — 126,000 gallon educational sea turtle display; Sea Swinger — Zamperla Midi-Discovery; Baynum Painting repainting of Steel Eel mega coaster; Riptide Rescue — Huss Airboat
Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio....Pirates of the Deep — inhouse theming of existing Sally dark ride; The Joker Carnival of Chaos — Zamperla Giga Discovery
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown, Houston....Wahoo Wave — ProSlide TornadoWave 60
Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington....El Diablo — Larson International 100-foot Giant Loop; reopening of Oil Derrick observation tower, Splash Parade
Splashway Water Park, Sheridan....ProSlide RocketBlast
Strike + Reel, Garland....Ropes Course International Sky Trail
William M. McDonald YMCA, Fort Worth....WhiteWater Pool Sider, AquaPlay 25
Wonderland Amusement Park, Amarillo....Spin-O-Saurus — SBF Visa Compact Spinning Coaster; Antique Car Ride
Vermont
Quechee Gorge Village, Quechee....Wisdom Rides Jett Star coaster (relocated from Fun Land of Fredericksburg)
Virginia
Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg....Finnegan's Flyer — S&S 32-passenger Screamin' Swing
Kings Dominion, Doswell....Grand Carnivale parade; Baynum Painting repainting of Eiffel Tower
Water Country USA, Williamsburg....Cutback Water Coaster — ProSlide RocketBlast/Fling Saucer 30 (x5) water coaster with five saucer sections
Washington
Arena Sports, Mill Creek....Ropes Course International Sky Trail with 180-degree curved Sky Rail, four Clip 'n Climb climbing walls

The Rides at Long Beach, Long Beach....Wacky Worm — Big Apple/Wacky Worm coaster
Wisconsin
Altitude Trampoline, Appleton....Ropes Course International Sky Trail with two side-by-side Sky Rails and seven Clip 'n Climb climbing walls
Bay Beach, Green Bay....The Big Wheel — Chance Rides 90-foot Giant Wheel
Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park, Wisconsin Dells....Zeus — retracking by Amuse Rides

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

► AIMS International announces new officers and board members — page 55 / ASTM F-24 meeting — page 61

Autism and other special needs are being addressed

Inclusion makes significant gains throughout amusement industry attractions

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Amusement parks, water parks and various attractions have always been cognizant of the needs of the public. In past decades parks have evolved in terms of accessibility to rides, no smoking policies throughout the park and more. A recent advancement is that of inclusion when it comes to autism disorders.

The number of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder has increased 123 percent in the last decade.

Last year, **Sesame Place** was the world's first theme park designated as a certified autism center.

Since then, more parks have come on line such as **Discovery Cove** and **Aquatica** in Orlando. On April 2 (World Autism Awareness Day), **SeaWorld Orlando** announced that it has been designated as a certified autism center creating the first family of parks, in the world's leading theme park destination, to be certified.

"We are incredibly proud to be the first family of Orlando theme parks to achieve these certifications," said **Mark Pauls**, SeaWorld Orlando park president. "We want to create lasting memories for all our guests. As families start planning their summer travel, the resources and tools that our parks now offer can provide peace of mind for families



Children use proprioceptive skills to control the flow of water using dams. COURTESY RAIN DROP PRODUCTS

with members that have autism and other special needs. Our parks and staff are now equipped to offer families inclusive activities, helping to ensure meaningful experiences for everyone."

As **Kennywood** opened the 2019 season, it was beaming of its new certification. "When we looked at ways to improve guest service over the offseason, becoming a certified autism center was at the top of our to-do list," said General Manager **Jerome Gibas**. "Our mission is to provide the finest in family entertainment, and ensuring we're on the front lines of understanding and serving our guests who are on the autism spectrum is critical to achieving that mission."

Other facilities host Autism Days such as **Six Flags Great Adventure** this month.

The rise in providing autism-related services has been welcome. Such amenities can include

quiet rooms where weighted blankets, fidget toys and puzzles, and themed safe spaces can benefit families with children who have specific needs. Many parks offer sensory guides that provide parents information on each ride and attraction that might offer challenges for those with autism.

Cedar Point is one of the latest parks to offer quiet rooms.

"Our team strives to keep Cedar Point a place where all guests are welcome, and we'll continue to evolve to ensure a visit is nothing but fun for families," said **Tony Clark**, director of communications. "Our Sensory Room, introduced in 2018, provides a great resource for our guests on the autism spectrum with its quiet areas, calming color palettes and sensory packs that are available for check out daily."

Rides and attractions have also taken a step up.

"I don't claim to be an expert in inclusive play; I'm an advocate for inclusive play," said **Mark Williams**, president and CEO of **Rain Drop Products**. "Parks and recreation departments in cities have been extolling the virtues of dry play inclusivity for years. In regard to water play, minor enhancements made to existing water features can make them fundamentally more inclusive without spending a lot of money."



Surfaces of water play equipment have different textures to engage senses for low-vision children. COURTESY RAIN DROP PRODUCTS

Surveys conducted by **Signet Research Inc.** for **Recreation Management** have determined that splash play areas have been the No. 1 requested amenity six of the last seven years.

"It's not just kids who have fun at a splash pad," said Williams. "Moms have fun having playdates with their friends. They become places that the whole community gathers. Because of reduced liability, it also becomes a place where people meet their neighbors and say hello and do things you don't usually do because you are keeping your eyes on the kids at the pool."

Williams feels splash areas have inherent advantages to dry play. They typically tend to be wheelchair friendly as compared to dry play with sand and fall zones.

Rain Drop Products, in its effort to become a leader in inclusive sprayground products, have various components in their approach. Auditory (engaging the sense of sound), proprioceptive (engaging the sense of movement), vestibular (sense of balance), tactile (sense of touch) and visual (sense of sight) culminate in function to be accessible to everyone, going beyond simple ADA compliance.

"12.6 percent of the population has some form of disability," said Williams, referring to an annual report on disability statistics. "They are a statistically significant portion of the population. It's the right thing to do. We have these children who are faced with an additional challenge in their lives and we have the means to provide a play value to them. Why not?"

Any discussion of inclusivity could not be complete without the groundbreaking theme park **Morgan's Wonderland**. The San Antonio park opened in March 2010 and was designed not only to be accessible to all but to encourage children of all abilities to interact together.

"We are delighted the amusement industry has become aware of the need for inclusion," said **Bob McCullough**, communications director, Morgan's Wonderland. "We're thrilled so many other parks are adapting their facilities to accommodate those with special needs. This was one of the objectives Morgan's Wonderland sought to achieve from the start."

In 2017 **Morgan's Inspiration Island**, a completely accessible water park, opened adjacent to Morgan's Wonderland. Following suit, the park garnered worldwide attention once again.

The water park, which

► See **INCLUSIVE**, page 51

Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island were groundbreaking properties in addressing inclusion and accessibility to all families.
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►INCLUSIVE

Continued from page 50

featured highly themed attractions were made accessible to all guests, regardless of ability. The product was supplied by WhiteWater West.

"We hear from grateful parents that there is a place like Morgan's Wonderland where children don't have to deal with any kind of barriers — whether physical, economic or any other kind of barrier. We take those has high compliments," said McCullough. "We've invited other facilities and welcomed visitors from around the world. Other [parks] have come and taken mental notes and written down ideas to take back with them to their home locations and implemented them for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities."

"Parks and attractions are constantly evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of their guests and providing safe, fun experiences for guests of all ages and abilities," said Susan Storey, director of communications IAAPA. "In addition to quiet

rooms and areas for guests with autism and other spectrum disorders, making updates to accessibility guides and using technology to help guests reserve their space in queue rather than standing for long periods of time, even adding more shared sitting areas so older guests can comfortably watch their grandchildren are simple, yet important ways parks are taking the time to understand their guests and provide solutions to some issues they may face during a visit."

Williams finds being conscious of inclusivity as a win-win for business. "Rain Drop Products, like any company, tries to grow its business," he said. "This is a niche that is underserved. While we might sell more products, in trying to be a leader we also know it is the right thing to do."

Furthermore, as parks work toward this goal, they in turn have the opportunity to sell more tickets.

An advantage of water play is that it has a computer and electricity — two things not found on "dry play" equipment. In addition to doing its regular job, computers can do more to bring in sounds



Quiet rooms are finding homes in parks. Six Flags Great Adventure welcomes guests (middle, right) to a designated Autism Day. COURTESY SEAWORLD; GERSH ACADEMY

and vibrations. Williams feels first steps can be taken in the design phase, keeping in mind things that are tactile and being mindful of activities that will suit children who are hyperactive as well as those who are hypoactive (high stimulation vs. calmer areas).

"Having calm areas, bringing in sound and vibration as well as active play — now you have the full spectrum. Just being ADA accessible is the 'floor.' That's the law, what you have to do. To go beyond that, to be inclusive you need

to think of many other things. If we create an environment that only attracts people with special needs, we have not achieved our goal," Williams told *Amusement Today*. "We want to do something that all children can play together."

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Julia joins the Safari of Fun at Busch Gardens



TAMPA, Fla. — Busch Gardens Tampa Bay welcomed Sesame Street's Julia to the Safari of Fun. Julia is an autistic four-year-old girl from Sesame Street. In celebration of Julia's addition and of Autism Awareness Month, Busch Gardens hosted a sensory-friendly showing of "Let's Play Together" on April 13 & 14. Afterwards, a walk-around Julia met with guests. Busch Gardens Tampa Bay is the second theme park, after Sesame Place, to have Julia as part of the friends of Sesame Street. Busch Gardens Tampa Bay is striving for future recognition as a Certified Autism Center. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA

Mall of America, Nickelodeon Universe recognized as Certified Autism Centers

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Mall of America (MOA) and Nickelodeon Universe, are officially recognized as Certified Autism Centers (CAC), granted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES).

The first destination in Minnesota to become a CAC, visitors and families with children who have autism and other sensory disorders can visit with the knowledge they'll enjoy an experience while visiting MOA that caters to their needs.

To earn the designation, 80 percent or more of the guest-facing staff had to complete the autism sensitivity and awareness training provided by IBCCES. MOA and Nickelodeon Universe also underwent an onsite review by IBCCES, including recommendations to make the park more accessible for visitors with sensory sensitivities, as well as sensory guides for each ride to better prepare guests on what to expect when they arrive.

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R S A L B E R T S . C O M

Soft putter helps reduce miniature golf course damage

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — After three years of research and development, Adventure Golf Services (AGS) introduced the AGS Soft Putter, a standard miniature golf putter with an improved putter head designed to minimize damage caused by rough play or vandalism.

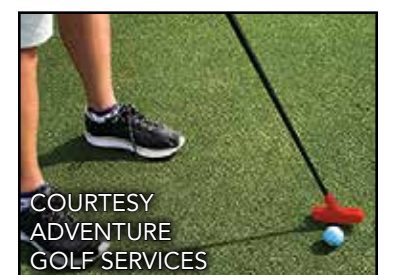
"Player damage to miniature golf courses is an age-old industry problem and was one of the most discussed issues during miniature golf seminars at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) trade show back in the early 1990s," remembers Arne Lundmark, CEO and chief designer and then-chairman of the IAAPA miniature golf committee.

During those meetings, one repeated question waiting for a solution was how to fix loose edge bricks knocked off their base by players intentionally pounding them with their putters. Another concern centered on the damage to scorecard stands, theming and props, all done with putters.

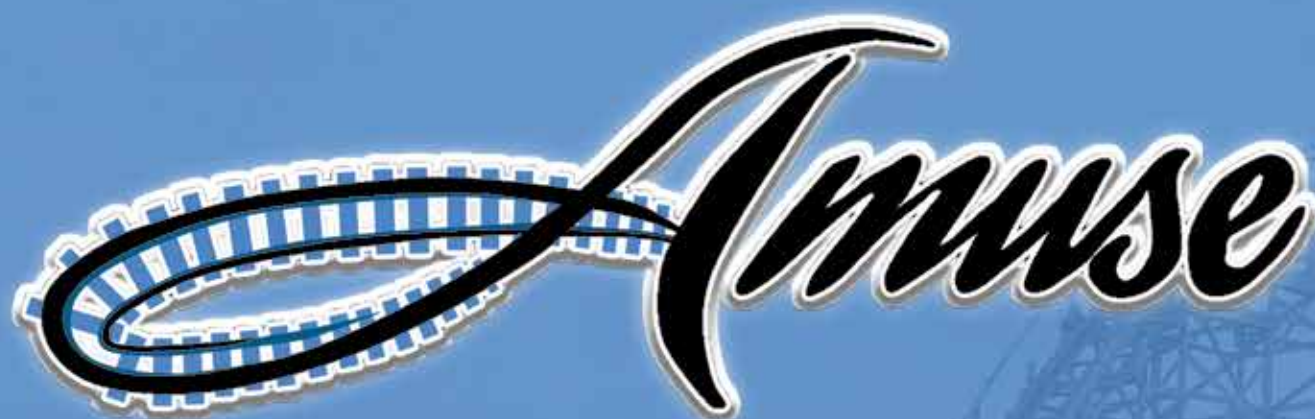
"We worked with a reliable industry putter supplier to develop the AGS low impact branded putter, AGS Soft Putter, which has softer and thicker rubber, uses a fiberglass shaft in lieu of steel and tests have shown positive results," said Mike Arnold, vice-president Custom Modular & Cruise Ship Division of Adventure Golf Services.

"We recently offered test putters to some of our major clients and one major cruise line is now specifying the AGS Soft Putter on their entire fleet."

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Knoebels off-season busy with refurbs



ELYSBURG, Pa. — Knoebels Amusement Resort has been busy all winter providing maintenance on all 63 rides and refurbishment of a dozen. The Tilt-A-Whirl (Sellner Mfg.) bull plates were replaced through Larson International, then the iconic 28-year-old ride was repainted. COURTESY BRIAN KNOEBEL

APSP University announces new online retail management certification course

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) announced its new online self-paced Certified Pool & Spa Retail Professional (CRP) 201 course.

The course consists of six modules: operation and inventory, human relations, communication and leadership skills, marketing and merchandising, sales techniques and financial management skills. The self-paced, interactive course is designed to increase retail managers skills and

confidence in supervising, hiring, training and leading, giving students a foundation about the management aspects of running a retail store.

"The business skills covered in the CRP 201 course provide the depth that is essential for every manager," said **Jeffrey Campbell**, APSP Retail Council vice-chairman. "Relevant, higher-level content is one of the most requested opportunities for support I hear across the country, and now everyone in the retail segment has

a new resource to improve their unique skillsets."

There are no prerequisites for the CRP 201 course. Topics covered in the course include: inventory, storage and purchasing, customer relationship management software, hiring procedures, employee coaching and discipline, workman's compensation, workplace harassment, marketing channels and building brand presence, establishing accounting procedures, pricing and margins and key finance options.

Schlitterbahn helps prepare teens for first summer job

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas — A large percentage of Schlitterbahn's staff has never worked outside the home before. The Human Resources staff at Schlitterbahn recently distributed tips on how best to prepare a teen for their first summer job.

Show Up

"We're looking for teens who understand they need to bring the best of themselves to work, who will engage our guests and make every interaction a positive one," said **Sarah Haag**, staff services manager for Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels. Teens need to get into the habit of being both on time and ready to help at home and in school.

Neat Appearance

Make sure the teen targets employers with a culture that matches their own style. A neat, well-kept appearance matters, no matter the length of hair or number of piercings. Help the teen identify options (clear studs, for example) that will allow them their own style without taking them out of the running for coveted jobs.

Be Reachable

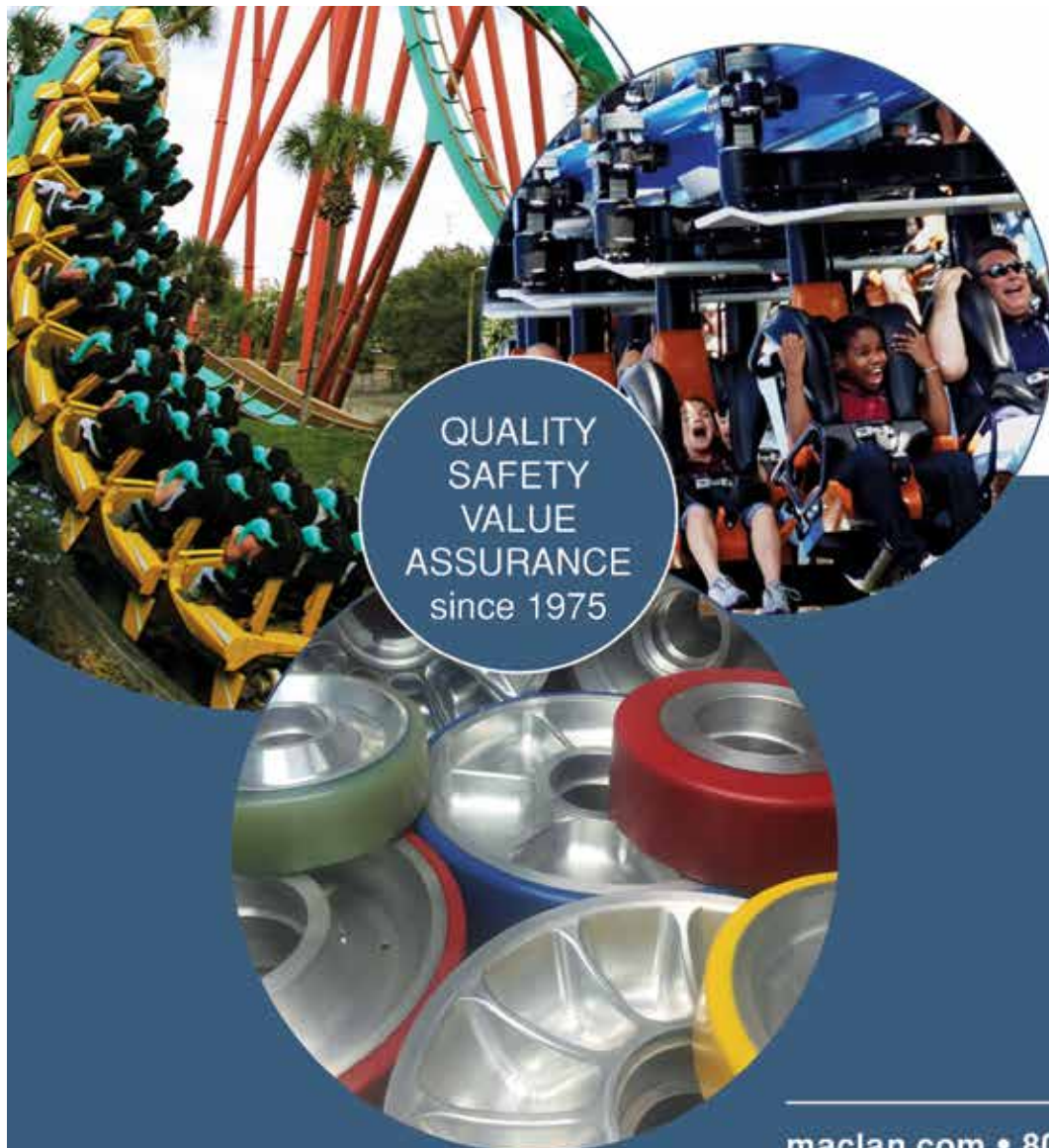
Summer jobs can often be subject to last minute changes in shifts. "When someone gets sick, or we get a new catering event, we often have to staff up quickly," said **Denise McPartland**, resort manager for Schlitterbahn Beach in South Padre Island. "We notice the kids who respond quickly, even if the answer is no. We know we can reach out to them again in the future."

Personality Over Skills

Employers who hire young workers are looking for one key thing: personality. "I'm always looking for great personalities that will deliver that great guest experience," said **Doug White**, director of operations for Schlitterbahn Galveston Island. "I can teach tasks, but I can't change someone's personality."

Handling Mistakes

Teens are going to make mistakes, it's expected. How they handle those mistakes is what gets noticed by managers. "Showing a willingness to learn from every experience is incredibly valuable," said **Darren Hill**, general manager of Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels.



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AIMS International announces new board officers and directors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The **AIMS International** Board of Directors announced that effective April 1, **Franeen Gonzales**, **WhiteWater's** executive vice president of business development—the Americas, replaced **Tim Viox** as AIMS board president.

The board has also appointed **Tony Claassen**, rides maintenance compliance officer at **Herschend Family Entertainment**, as vice president and, **George Tso**, engineering executive director, **Ocean Park**, Hong Kong as secretary. **Linda**

Freeman, Rockwell Automation, remains treasurer.

In addition, three new board directors have taken office after being elected at the annual membership meeting this past January.

The first of which is **Monty Jasper**, corporate vice-president of safety and engineering for the **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company**. He is a registered professional engineer with experience in operations, maintenance, construction, safety and engineering and holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Mechanical

Engineering. Jasper has worked 46 years in the amusement industry with both **Six Flags** and **Cedar Fair** and is a member of the **Ohio Amusement Ride Advisory Board** and the **ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices**. He also serves on the AIMS Education Committee.

Also joining the AIMS board is **Dr. Kathryn Woodcock**, CCPE ICAE PEng, a professor at **Ryerson University** in Toronto involved in unique extracurricular training, research, as well as knowledge of mobilization activi-

ties focused on human factors of amusement rides and attractions pertaining to guests, operators, and inspectors. Dr. Woodcock is also a member of **TEA**, **ASTM Committee F24**, **Ontario TSSA Amusement Devices Advisory Council**, **Global Safety Committee of IAAPA**, **IAAPA Foundation Academic Advisory Council**, and **Board of Directors of the Canadian National Exhibition**.

Finally, **David Bromilow**, global director of parks and attractions for **Mobaro Park** rounds out the new board mem-

bers. Bromilow has worked for more than 40 years in the amusement industry, beginning as an apprentice engineer at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach**. He has worked as an independent amusement industry consultant worldwide, at **AON/SLE Insurance Group** as technical risk control manager and as general manager of park operations at **Drayton Manor**. He is chairman of the **IAAPA EMEA Safety Committee** and serves on the **IAAPA Global Safety Committee**.

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Informa publishes research on crisis management



CATONSVILLE, Md. — **Informa** journal *Management Science* published new research that provides companies with substantiated, actionable insights on strategies for effectively responding to situations where their compensated celebrity endorsers generate negative publicity.

"Managing Negative Celebrity Endorser Publicity: How Announcements of Firm (Non) Responses Impact Stock Returns" was authored by researchers from the **University of Connecticut** and the **Free University of Berlin**.

"One of the biggest liabilities firms can assume when hiring celebrity endorsers for advertising and marketing is the risk that those celebrities will at some point find themselves in the middle of a firestorm of negative publicity," said the authors.

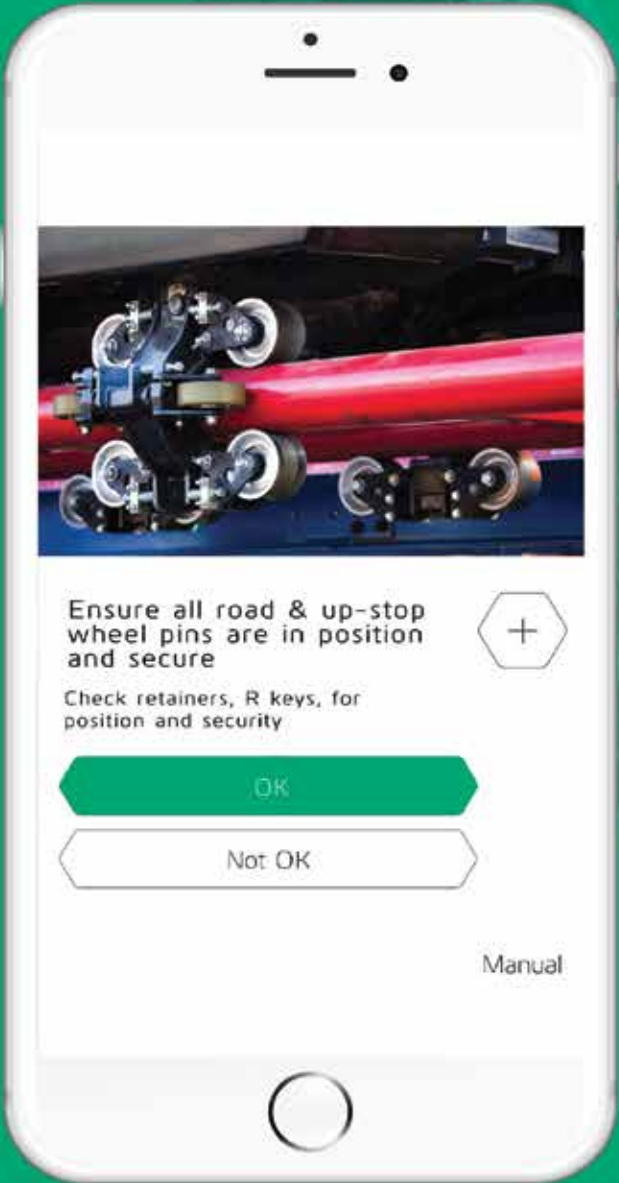
The study authors analyzed 128 events of negative endorser publicity between 1988 and 2016, which affected the sponsors in 230 actual cases. They evaluated effectiveness of company responses using the company's daily abnormal stock returns.

They found that a faster statement from the company increases firm value by 2.10% over the next four trading weeks. Further, they learned that when companies issue statements about suspending or maintaining the celebrity, it is more likely to contribute to positive returns.

On the whole, some definitive action is always better than no response.


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Up close with AIMS International Board President Franceen Gonzales

Franceen Gonzales is **WhiteWater's** executive vice president of business development, the Americas. An active advocate and volunteer in the amusement industry, she has served on the boards of directors for **IAAPA**, **WWA**, **ASTM** and **NSPF**. Her term as board president of **AIMS International** began April 1, 2019, following **Tim Viox**, who served as board president for the last two years.

AIMS News & Notes recently had the opportunity to sit down with Franceen to learn a bit more about her and her plans for AIMS International:

What brought you into the amusement industry in the first place?

My first job was as a pool technician at a local water park. I worked every summer through high school and college moving up through management always with a focus on safety. Since then I've worked for a variety of organizations — water parks, FECs, amusement parks, resorts, and now design/manufacturing. What has kept me in this business is a passion for safety, the fellowship with

a vibrant network of people, and the teamwork of incredibly talented people in high-performing companies.

How did you learn about AIMS?

Roger Berry, with Ralph Alberts Co., asked me to be on a task group to

identify the kind of education needed by parks. With better awareness of the organization, I began sending people from my team at **Great Wolf** to the annual seminar. Later, I was nominated to be on the board and was immediately surrounded by some of the best and most respected names in the business. I've learned a great deal from them and have been awed by their passion for safety education for the industry.

How can AIMS make a difference?

AIMS has a singular mission — safety education in the amusement industry. With that laser focus, we create and deliver high-quality education programs that target the people whom are hands-

on in parks. AIMS focuses on both big picture and specialized training and delivers it in a way where a network of people can share their experience. The platform is mobile and can be delivered in different parts of the world. We validate the quality of the education and individual knowledge through our certification program that is recognized worldwide.

What do you hope to accomplish in your term as board president of AIMS?

The board represents the interests of stakeholders in safety education in our industry. They are passionate and have many ideas on how we can make safety education accessible, relevant, and high quality, worldwide. They also strive to make the AIMS Safety Seminar a success every year in its ability to reach more people. As board president, I hope to harness their passion and intend to turn it into actionable objectives that we can resource and deliver on in a nimble way. Mission establishes the path. I want to lead the group so we stay on the path but also keep looking for the opportunities to enhance mission.



Gonzales

Tell us about yourself, where you live, your family...

I live in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., one of the most beautiful beaches on the planet (in my humble opinion). I travel a lot so when I'm actually at my home office, I walk the beach each morning and pick up trash along the way. I firmly believe in protecting the environment, especially in my hometown. It's a treat to ride my bike to the beach with my husband, Michael Turner of The Producers Group, to watch a spectacular sunset. It makes all the travel worth it. Believe it or not, I like to travel even though I do almost 175,000 miles a year for work. Recently I brought my mom with me to Guatemala for an IAAPA event. It gave me some quality time with her while we saw a beautiful part of the world. My three sisters and their families share my life through our WhatsApp group and they are always amazed by the many places I visit. I am truly blessed to work in this industry with my husband, see the world, and live the mission of safety everywhere I go.

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.



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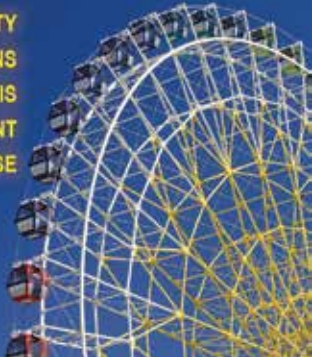
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Attractions leaders meet with lawmakers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Attractions industry leaders gathered in Washington D.C. on April 8-9, 2019, during IAAPA U.S. Advocacy Days. More than 38 U.S. attractions leaders met with representatives from 66 congressional offices to discuss the industry's legislative priorities and regulatory issues.

With 333 million annual visitors, a total employment impact of 733,605 jobs, and a total revenue impact of \$51 billion, the U.S. attractions industry plays a vital role within local communities and the overall U.S. economy.

IAAPA members met with congressional offices representing 17 states to discuss key priority issues affecting the attractions industry, including:

- Amusement Ride Safety — IAAPA supports effective state ride safety regulation based on the standards developed by ASTM International F24 Committee on Amusement Rides and Devices.

- J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program — IAAPA supports the continuation of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program without additional requirements which unnecessarily limit current use of the program.

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS or drones)

— IAAPA supports the UAS provisions passed by the 115th Congress requiring the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop a process to petition the FAA to restrict the operation of UAS over and in close proximity to fixed-site facilities such as amusement parks where UAS flight presents safety hazards.

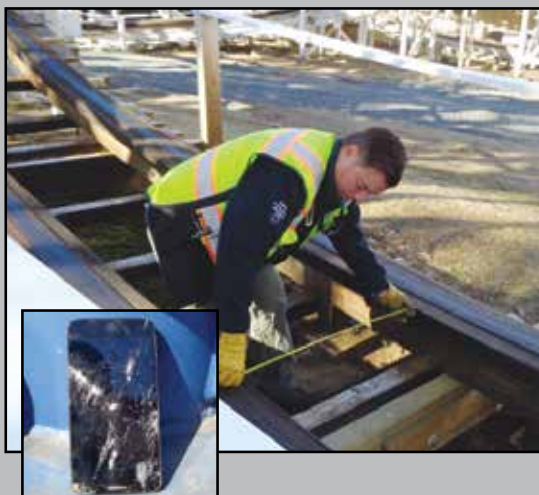
IAAPA extends a sincere appreciation to its members from across the U.S., speakers, and presenters who contributed to this year's successful event.

•iaapa.org



COURTESY IAAPA

LJM & Associates busy with pre-season inspections



As the park industry readies for opening, LJM & Associates has been busy completing pre-season inspections. Here inspections were made on a classic wooden roller coaster (above left) and a Vekoma Family Suspended Coaster (above right). Inset, LJM found his damaged cell phone under a ride — a reminder that parks must always remind guests to secure their loose items prior to boarding a ride. COURTESY LJM & ASSOCIATES

Main Event Entertainment is now an official partner of the Special Olympics

DALLAS, Texas — Main Event Entertainment announced it has signed on as an official sponsor of the Special Olympics, the world's largest organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

"Main Event couldn't be more excited to team up with the Special Olympics as our first official national partner," said Chris Morris, president and CEO of Main Event Entertainment. "Main Event conducted a long search to find the right philanthropic partner to align with and Special Olympics is the perfect fit. This is a partnership that can grow as we grow."

Main Event's local-level support of the Special Olympics helped lead to the national partnership. Several Main Event locations already actively host Special Olympics events, meetings, athlete practice sessions and competitions. Main Event will continue to grow its support of the Special Olympics in every state it operates in, including supporting Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools and student athletes.

To raise funds to support the Special Olym-



Several Main Event locations host Special Olympics events.
COURTESY MAIN EVENT ENTERTAINMENT

pics, Main Event guests can donate any amount — \$1 or more — to the Special Olympics anytime they are in the entertainment center. 100 percent of the funds donated will go directly to the Special Olympics and will be used for various events and activities. In addition, Main Event hosted a national fundraiser Feb. 20 through April 16 at all of its 42 Main Event locations where each center sold Special Olympics insignias that guests posted within the family entertainment centers.

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Dreamworld launches Training Academy

GOLD COAST, Australia — Dreamworld has established a training academy to deliver continued development opportunities to its team members. The academy will partner with local businesses, integrating its nationally accredited training programs in tourism, hospitality, leadership, safety and role-specific training including ride operations. COURTESY DREAMWORLD



Most consumers will spend more at facilities with clean restrooms

Survey reveals benefits of well kept restrooms

MENOMONEE, Wis. — One in two Americans are willing to ante up more cash at business and amusement facilities that have clean, well-maintained restrooms, according to the 10th Annual Healthy Hand Washing Survey by Bradley Corp. The number of those who will “definitely” or “probably” spend more money has hiked up seven points to 52 percent this year compared to 45 percent in 2018.

In addition, 64 percent of consumers make a conscious decision to choose their entertainment visits based on the fact that it has cleaner, well-maintained restrooms. Women are even more likely to be drawn to pleasing restrooms compared to men (67 percent vs. 61 percent).

“Consistently, over the 10 years of our survey, a large majority of Americans say they expect high quality business venues to have a high quality restroom,” said Jon Dommissie, director of strategy and corporate development for Bradley Corp. “So, when a customer encounters a messy restroom, their perception of that venue

[its products and services] are tarnished. Even worse, 55 percent are unlikely to return for a repeat visit after a bad restroom experience, which can have a devastating effect on sales.

“On the flip side, well-maintained restrooms attract customers who reward those businesses with increased spending. It simply makes good business sense to keep restrooms clean and modern-looking so customers come back.”

Bradley Corp. has a long history of working with amusement facilities including: Walt Disney World; Sea World Orlando; Raging River Water Park; Six Flags Fiesta Texas; Georgia Aquarium; Oxford Lanes; Flamingo Bowl and Western Fair District to name a few.

Coming clean on restroom uses and requests

“Nearly 60 percent of Americans tell us that, on average, they use public restrooms anywhere from one to five times per week, and an additional 21 percent use restrooms six or more times a week,” Dommissie said. “In all, 80 percent of people regularly use public restrooms. As odd as it may sound, for many of us, public restrooms are an important part of our everyday lives.”

Despite visiting restrooms

regularly, Americans report an increasingly high degree of aggravation with them. Their top aggravations include toilets that are clogged or not flushed (85 percent), empty or jammed toilet paper dispensers (83 percent), and partition doors that don’t latch (78 percent). In all, nearly 70 percent of Americans reported having an unpleasant restroom experience.

“Based on these pain points, it makes sense that American’s top requests for improvements are keeping restrooms cleaner and better stocked,” Dommissie said.

“The state of a restroom can have a measurable effect on the health of a business. Our aim for this research over the past 10 years has been to understand hand washing habits and help businesses improve their restrooms and attract repeat customers.”

The 10th Annual Healthy Hand Washing Survey conducted by Bradley Corp. queried 1,264 American adults online Jan. 3-9, 2019, about their hand washing habits in public restrooms and concerns about germs, colds and the flu. Participants were from around the country, were 18 years and older, and were fairly evenly split between men and women (49 and 51 percent).

• www.bradleycorp.com/handwashing



Oxford Lanes in Oxford, Ohio, opened its current location in January 1963. The 12-lane facility serves as the community's place of entertainment and hosts numerous local events throughout the year. Ownership recently updated the men's and women's restrooms and wanted to eliminate the wet floor problem for bowlers. Their solution was installing the Verge with Wash Bar along with the touch-free hand dryers which greatly reduced the amount of water drippage on the floors. COURTESY BRADLEY CORP.

Hayride safety standard proposed

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — ASTM International's committee on amusement rides and devices (F24) is developing a standard for requirements for hayride attractions. The proposed standard (WK50036) will apply to hayrides meant for entertainment, recreation, or agritourism.

The proposed standard will help provide a level of

conformity to reduce potential hazards to patrons, attendants, actors, and spectators. It covers all aspects of hayride attractions, including operations, safety, design, maintenance and documentation.

In addition, the standard could help local governments and authorities who have jurisdiction over hayrides as well as code enforcement officials.

ASTM F-24 meeting held in Houston



ASTM held its F24 meeting for Amusement Rides and Devices Feb 13-16, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas. The meeting drew more than 350 attendees and featured 51 classroom-style subjects on the meeting agenda. COURTESY PAT HOFFMAN, ALL PHOTOS



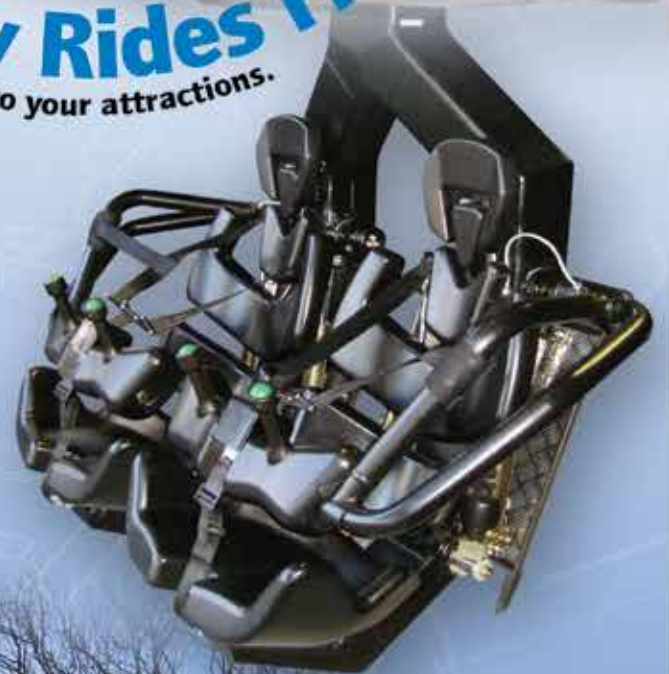
Seen at ASTM (l to r): Pat Hoffman, The Hoffman Consulting Group; Tom Sheehan, The Sheehan Firm; Katerina Koperna, ASTM and Greg Hale, Walt Disney World (top). Jason Freeman, Six Flags; Cindy Emerick, Dynamic Attractions and Pat Hoffman (middle). Timo Klaus, KumbaK Engineers; Jerry Aldrich, Jerry Aldrich Consulting; Bob, Johnson, OABA and Loretta Aldrich (bottom).

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'The Life and Times of Ward Kimball' captures and details the Disney legend

REVIEW: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Long before the name Disney became immediately associated with world-class theme parks, a fan base was established from the works of **Walt Disney Studios**. The films produced set the full potential of Disney's life and career into motion. *The Life and Times of Ward Kimball, Maverick of Disney Animation* (University Press of Mississippi, January 2019) takes the reader into that journey and how the two men's lives would be linked.

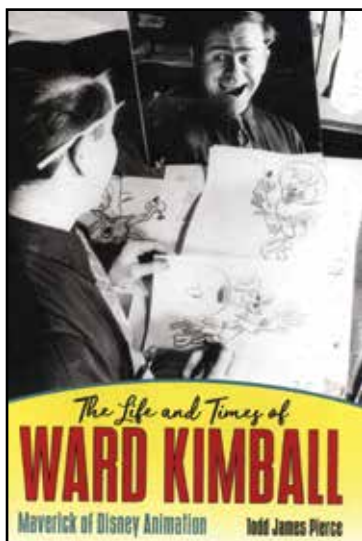
Ward Kimball's interests developed in early childhood — music, art and antique vehicles. Accolades for drawing led to art school, despite the wishes of his parents. His schooling frowned upon Hollywood cartoons, but Kimball noticed an elegance and sophistication to the Disney product.

As the Depression took its toll and Kimball's family's finances were strained, he succumbed to an opportunity via Hollywood to use his artistic background. On applying to Disney Studios, **Walt Disney** himself admired something about Kimball's portfolio. Landing a job at the lowest position, he eventually found his skills in animation developing and soon began a climb up the ladder. "I came to get a job in what I thought was an inferior form of art," Kimball had stated finding himself quickly becoming adept at it.

The production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Disney's first full-length animation film, proved pivotal. It was a huge risk and involved hundreds of more employees being brought on. The process was painstaking and created both inspiration and heartbreak. The film's proclaimed success set in motion bigger things for the studios and Kimball.

Just as America was about to enter into global war as the 1940s began, Kimball and Disney would become closer, unfortunately as a result of a labor strike.

The war, along with the artists' strike, had depleted the bulk of talent at Walt Disney Studios. Staff sought solace and strength in other interests and hobbies. Many employees shared a love of music. Disney and Kimball shared a specific interest — a love of old trains. This link drew the two men closer. Saddled with debt, Disney needed some



form of escape.

"Walt was a true workaholic," Kimball once noted, "before the word was even invented." Walt's doctor warned him that he needed to relax before the burden of work caused major consequences.

It was Kimball's good fortune to accompany Disney on a trip to a railroad fair. The common interest opened doors for the two men to share. For Kimball, the friendship between the two felt more evident. With this chapter, readers are drawn into the unique bond as the relationship transitions further from boss/employee into one of a confidant.

For Disney, the trip solidified plans to bring a small gauge train (briefly) to the studios before relocating it to his home. It's beyond doubt that the excursion with Kimball provided the seeds to Walt's masterpiece escape — **Disneyland**.

Kimball's third love — music — became a creative outlet when many of his animation ideas were squelched. Forming a Dixieland jazz band, Kimball saw it find popularity more for its antics and performance than just the music itself. His band, Firehouse Five, achieved a good degree of fame, but eventually, larger offers — lucrative ones at that — were turned down as they began to conflict with work at Walt Disney Studios.

In the 1950s, while still friends, Kimball and Walt Disney clashed on numerous occasions. Kimball wished to continue pushing artistic boundaries, but these modern styles put him on the outside of the established realistic Disney style. A grand solution was to put Kimball in charge of segments for the new *Disneyland* TV series, a promotional venture that would not only raise

money for building the park, but also give it publicity.

The TV series centered around the themes of Disneyland: Adventureland, Frontierland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland. While the studios had content for the first three, no material was at hand for Tomorrowland. Kimball was assigned to do at least one segment on space exploration. In time, experts were brought in and Walt Disney approved a huge budget, which produced multiple television segments. Kimball found himself as director and producer rounding out his slate of skills more than ever, even if it was on demanding terms. The segments produced had to reach a balance that not only remained scientifically accurate, but also had to entertain a family audience. Within this goal, the Disney team indirectly influenced the support of America to fund a space exploration program, in other words, **NASA**.

As the book — and Kimball's career — steers to its end, the passing of Walt Disney left a void emotionally and structurally within the company. Kimball regained the freedom to become director and producer once again without Walt there to say "no." Even so, the new management regime continued to find Kimball's artistic ambition to be outside the tried-and-true family boundaries of the established brand. The maverick animator was disillusioned more than ever. With his Disney stock holdings he had millions, but it was his lack of enjoyment within his work that prompted him to retire in 1973. Years after stepping away, those dark edges began to fade and he re-embraced the legendary work he had accomplished and returned for anniversaries, conventions and even helped envision World of Motion for the opening of **Epcot**.

Award-winning Author **Todd James Pierce** has amassed a documented history through (thoroughly indexed) interviews, journals and research that not only paints a picture for the reader of one of the greatest animators of the 20th century, but further illustrates the times and circumstances in which Walt Disney and his studios triumphed and evolved over several decades. Any Disney fan will have a truer understanding of Walt's world after experiencing this book.

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